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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 2026-02-03
Bill No: SB210

Sponsor: Campos, Pete
NM HIGHLANDS
Short Title: SPORTS FIELDS

Agency Name and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing: Netzer, Danielle
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0.0	\$80,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue	Recurring	Fund Affected

FY26	FY27	FY28	or Nonrecurring	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 210 (SB210) appropriates eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) to construct a soccer field for the women's soccer team and to make improvements to the football field, track, natatorium, and Gene Torres golf course. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB210 appropriates eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) from the General Fund to the NMHU Board of Regents for expenditure in FY27. This is a nonrecurring capital appropriation with a reversion clause specifying that any unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

The appropriation is a direct legislative appropriation to NMHU, and the university did not submit this request to the NMHED for possible incorporation into the NMHED higher education comprehensive funding recommendation. The NMHED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the NMHED funding recommendation. NMHED, Capital Projects Division does not currently recommend auxiliary projects such as student housing or athletics facilities in its formal capital outlay recommendation process; NMHED focuses capital recommendations on Instruction and General (I&G) projects that support core educational mission

activities. SB210's athletic facility projects are auxiliary in nature and would not typically be included in NMHED capital outlay recommendation process.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB210 supports a significant expansion and improvement of athletic facilities at NMHU, including a new women's soccer field, improvements to an existing football field and track, improvements to a natatorium (aquatic facility), and improvements to the Gene Torres golf course. Athletic facilities and programs at four-year public universities can support student recruitment, retention, engagement, institutional identity, and community connections, and new or improved facilities may enhance program quality, Title IX compliance, and competitiveness. However, the bill does not specify the scope, phasing, or priorities for these projects, which collectively span multiple types of facilities (field sports, aquatics, golf) and may involve significant design, construction, and site preparation costs. The eighty-million-dollar (\$80,000,000) appropriation is limited to FY27 with reversion, which may create challenges if large-scale construction projects require multi-year expenditure authority or if the scope exceeds what can be completed or encumbered in a single fiscal year. Additionally, the bill does not address ongoing operating and maintenance costs for new and improved athletic facilities, which NMHU will need to cover through existing or future budgets.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB210 does not outline specific performance measures or reporting requirements for NMHU or NMHED. If funded, NMHU could develop performance measures in coordination with NMHED such as project completion milestones, square footage or amenity improvements, student participation rates in athletics programs, or facility utilization, to support accountability and assessment of the capital investment.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMHU would administer this appropriation, including project planning, design, construction management, procurement, and compliance with capital project requirements for multiple athletic facility projects spanning women's soccer field construction, football field improvements, track improvements, natatorium improvements, and Gene Torres golf course improvements. The scope and scale of these projects may require significant administrative resources at NMHU, including facilities management staff, project managers, architects, engineers, procurement specialists, and construction oversight personnel. NMHED's role typically includes coordinating capital projects, monitoring expenditures, and ensuring compliance with state capital outlay processes and reporting requirements, which may result in modest additional workload for NMHED staff but can generally be managed within existing resources and administrative systems.

The bill does not assign new statutory duties to NMHED or provide additional administrative appropriations to NMHED.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB210 is a single-institution capital appropriation for NMHU and does not amend higher education statutes or create statewide programs. NMHED's review does not identify direct conflicts or duplications with other 2026 higher education legislation at this time.

SB210 appears to be related to a broader athletics master plan announced by New Mexico Highlands University in late 2025, which proposed approximately eighty-five million five hundred thousand dollars.

(\$85,500,000) in comprehensive athletic facility improvements, as reported in public discussions of the university's facilities planning (https://www.santafenewmexican.com/sports/highlands-shooting-for-new-mexicos-largest-ever-athletics-expenditure-at-85-5-million/article_ca76c659-22dc-47ee-82c9-894427a2ece0.html).

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB210 is a single-section appropriation bill with a clear appropriation amount, recipient institution, fiscal year, and reversion clause. The bill appropriates funds for multiple facility projects: women's soccer field construction, football field improvements, track improvements, natatorium improvements, and Gene Torres golf course improvements. However, the bill does not specify allocation amounts, implementation priorities, or phasing schedules among these projects, which affords NMHU flexibility in project planning but may create ambiguity regarding legislative intent and institutional accountability.

From a higher education perspective, there are no drafting errors or statutory inconsistencies that would prevent implementation of the appropriation. Bill language that specifies the scope, allocation amounts, implementation priorities, and timelines for each facility project would provide greater clarity regarding the Legislature's intent and could facilitate institutional planning, reporting, and execution.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Because SB210 is a nonrecurring appropriation limited to FY27 with reversion, the bill does not address whether additional funding may be needed in future years for project completion if costs exceed eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000), for equipment and furnishings, or for ongoing operating and maintenance expenses associated with the new and improved facilities. Capital projects for athletic facilities typically follow established field dimension and safety standards, such as those published by the NCAA and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHSA), to ensure fields are suitable for competitive play, although SB210 does not reference such requirements or specify design standards.

The Gene Torres golf course is owned and operated by NMHU in partnership with the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel County and is a campus facility that serves both educational and recreational purposes. Improvements to the golf course may support NMHU's programs and community engagement. However, NMHU has faced financial sustainability challenges with the golf course, as documented in university announcements regarding the facility's closure from 2019 to 2022 and subsequent reopening under the three-way partnership structure to mitigate financial demands on the university's academic budget (<https://www.nmhu.edu/nmhus-gene-torres-golf-course-resumes-operation/>). SB210 does not specify the types or scope of improvements to be made to the Gene Torres golf course or clarify whether improvements are intended to address course infrastructure, operational sustainability, public amenities, or other institutional objectives.

ALTERNATIVES

NMHU may seek other sources of funding, such as federal grants, private donations, or partnerships with local governments or community organizations, to supplement the state appropriation or to cover ongoing operating and maintenance costs for the athletic facilities. The institution may also determine that it has existing funds available to help support phases of the projects or related athletic program expenses. Regarding the Gene Torres golf course specifically, the existing three-way partnership structure with the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel County may be leveraged to identify additional funding sources or operational efficiencies to support course improvements and long-term financial sustainability.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB210 is not enacted, eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) will not be appropriated from the General Fund to the NMHU Board of Regents for construction of a women's soccer field and for improvements to football field, track, natatorium, and Gene Torres golf course facilities. NMHU may have fewer dedicated resources to construct new athletic facilities or improve existing facilities and may need to rely on existing budgets, incremental improvements, or alternative funding sources to support athletic programs and related student participation.

AMENDMENTS

N/A