

**LFC Requester:**

**Connor Jorgensen**

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

**[LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV](mailto:LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV)**

*and*

**[DFA@STATE.NM.US](mailto: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}*

*Check all that apply:*

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

**Date** 02/04/2026

**Bill No:** SB 243

**Sponsor:** Antonio Maestas and George K. Muñoz  
**Short Title:** Appropriation to Support Student Athletes

**Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico State University/954  
**Person Writing:** Clayton Abbey  
**Phone:** 505-239-8821    **Email:** nmsufir@nmsu.edu

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
\$5,000,000		Nonrecurring	FY27 only

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>FY29</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>						

(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**

Synopsis: SB 243 provides a targeted \$5.0 million investment in NMSU student-athletes for FY27. Funding will directly support essential areas such as team travel, nutrition, sports medicine, and overall student-athlete welfare. This request responds to significant national cost increases and evolving student-athlete care expectations.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

Athletics programs across the country are experiencing substantial cost escalation in travel, food services, medical care, and performance support due to inflation, expanded competition schedules, and higher standards for student-athlete care. This one-time appropriation provides critical relief to help NMSU meet these obligations without diverting limited institutional academic resources. The bill does not establish any future recurring state commitment.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

- Travel costs have increased due to conference realignment, airfare inflation, and expanded competition requirements
- Nutrition standards for student-athletes have advanced, increasing demand for fueling stations and performance-based meal programs
- National expectations around student-athlete health, safety, and well-being continue to grow, requiring enhanced medical, mental health, and recovery resources
- Without additional support, rising athletics welfare costs place pressure on institutional budgets intended for academic operations

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Enhanced investment in student-athlete welfare improves recruitment, retention, academic achievement, and competitive performance. Supporting athlete well-being aligns with statewide higher education goals focused on student success and degree completion.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Funds will be administered through existing financial and compliance structures within NMSU Athletics. Standard reporting and accountability practices will apply.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

NMSU would face continued financial strain in meeting rising student-athlete welfare standards, potentially reducing competitiveness, increasing institutional subsidy requirements, and limiting the university's ability to provide comprehensive support services.

## **AMENDMENTS**