

LFC Requester:

Connor Jorgensen

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)***SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION***{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** February 6, 2026 Check all that apply:  
**Bill Number:** SB 244 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Sens. Maestas and Muñoz **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952  
**Short** UNM Student Athletes Funding **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Person Writing:** Lenaya Montoya  
**Phone:** 5754187595 **Email** lenayamontoya@unm.edu

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	\$5,000.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

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

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<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: SB244 appropriates \$5 million dollars from the General Fund to support UNM Athletics' operational expenses including travel, nutrition, and overall student-athlete needs.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This bill has the potential to increase UNM Athletics' operating budget by up to \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2027. While other changes to UNM Athletics' RPSP allocation have been recommended by the LFC, this bill will be assessed independent from those changes.

In FY24, UNM Athletics trailed the average Mountain West / Pac-12 Conference operating budget by nearly \$15 million. The average Mountain West/Pac-12 athletics operating budget in FY24 was \$68.7 million, while UNM Athletics' operating budget was \$54.0 million.

UNM Athletics has been significantly impacted by the effects of impending conference realignment. This conference realignment was largely influenced by overall investment into athletic programs across the West Coast. Impending conference realignment is likely to impact UNM Athletics in both revenue and expense categories. UNM projects a decrease in key revenue categories including multi-media rights and men's basketball ticket sales as a result of realignment. New members of the Mountain West Conference include Northern Illinois University (Football) and the University of Hawaii in all sports, which will significantly impact travel expenses. Inflationary increases to key expense categories including travel, equipment, and nutrition also continue to adversely affect the department.

This investment into UNM Athletics operating budget has the potential to improve competitive success and significantly impact the student-athlete experience, while mitigating the financial impacts of conference realignment. UNM Athletics aspires to be a premier athletic program on the West Coast and nationally, and continued investment into our programs is a testament to these aspirations.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

None

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATION**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATION**

None

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

None

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None

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

A lack of investment into UNM Athletics has the potential to negatively impact the department fiscally, operationally, and perceptually. Failure to adopt this bill may require budget adjustments and will require additional fundraising from athletics staff and coaches for operational expenses, instead of philanthropic efforts related to scholarships, facilities or name, image, and likeness efforts for student-athletes.

## **AMENDMENTS**