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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 225

SHORT TITLE: Tribal Liaison Program

SPONSOR: Pinto

LAST UPDATE: _____ **ORIGINAL DATE:** 2/9/2026 **ANALYST:** Hernandez

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$33,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Secretary of State

Department of Finance and Administration

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 225

Senate Bill 225 (SB225) appropriates \$33 million from the general fund to the local government division at the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for the purpose of providing nonpartisan voter education and awareness, translation services, and voter registration drives to indigenous communities in the state.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$33 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

Although SB225 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new program could create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost is assumed to be recurring.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Secretary of State typically receives \$15 million to administer elections across all 33 counties in New Mexico. This funding covers most key facets of elections and election administration: poll workers, ballot-on-demand systems, tabulators, etc. The \$15 million in the statewide election fund already partially goes to tribal communities across the state, as required by legislation.

It is unclear how the \$33 million appropriation was calculated, as election costs statewide do not exceed \$15 million. Additionally, the appropriation may likely be better suited at the Secretary of State and not DFA.

AEH/dw