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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 249

SHORT TITLE: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples

SPONSOR: Pinto

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 02/09/26 **ANALYST:** Jacobs

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
0	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
NMAG	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*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

New Mexico Attorney General

Indian Affairs Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 249

Senate Bill 249 (SB249) appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to the New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) for the purpose of furthering the work of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Task Force.

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 \$1 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general

fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

SB249 would appropriate \$1 million to fund the NMAG’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Task Force. Senate Joint Memorial 2 (SJM2) from the 2024 legislative session created the 40-person task force and instructed it to issue a report by the end of 2025. The task force’s report, published on the Attorney General’s website, focused on policy recommendations and improving communication with and between different legal authorities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

2024’s SJM2 built on House Bill 278 from the 2019 legislative session, which created the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force in the Indian Affairs Department. The Indian Affairs Department’s task force published a *State Response Plan* in 2022. Senate Bill 12 from the 2022 legislative session also created the “Missing Indigenous Persons Specialist” position within NMAG and provided the agency funding for a missing and murdered indigenous peoples portal.

Of note, the NMAG task force is distinct from the Indian Affairs Department’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Relatives Task Force.

HJ/hg/sgs