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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** McSorley **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/05/11  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Utton Center & Joe Stell Ombudsman at UNM **SB** 231

**ANALYST** Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	None Indicated		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 231 creates the Utton Transboundary Center resources Center at the University of New Mexico.

The bill also creates the Joe M. Stell Water Ombudsman Program within the Utton Transboundary Resources Center.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation; however an appropriation of \$302.8 thousand for the Utton Transboundary Resources Center is included in the General Appropriation Act.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The purposes of the Center are to promote policies for the equitable and sustainable management of water and other transboundary natural resources while reducing conflict over the use of such resources, and to provide information, expertise, research and education to the public and the legal community about water-related policies and legal issues, including the water rights and adjudication process.

The Center also administers the mission of the Joe M Stell Water Ombudsman Program, which provides educational assistance to unrepresented parties in water rights adjudications.

These two programs already exist at UNM and the School of Law currently administers the center and the ombudsman program. It is unclear why these programs need to be codified when they are already in existence.

No additional staff will be needed to implement the provisions of this bill.

HJA/svb