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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Moores **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/25/2015  
**LAST UPDATED** 3/14/2015 **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** UNM Brain Safe Program **SB** 89/aSEC

**ANALYST** Hartzler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$3,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16	FY17		
	\$1,000.0		Recurring	Project Partner Revenues

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

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

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$3,000.0		\$3,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4J, Higher Education, University of New Mexico, Research and Public Service Projects

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
 Higher Education Department (HED)

No Response Received from  
 University of New Mexico (UNM)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Education Committee Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment authorizes the appropriation to be expended through 2018, with any balance reverting to the general fund. (See Fiscal Implication below.) This changes the classification of the appropriation to nonrecurring as it is spread over several years. However, a recurring appropriation maybe required in FY19.

### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 89 appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to UNM for the brain safe program for university athletes.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund. However, if this appropriation for the brain safe program is included in Section 4 of the General Appropriation Act, the funding will not revert to the general fund pursuant to legislative language governing that section.

The university requested general fund support for this project as part of the HED's budget process to consider research and public service projects. The FY16 request was \$1 million in general fund support, for a total project request of \$3 million in general fund support over three fiscal years. HB 2, as passed by the House and amended by the Senate Finance Committee, includes a \$175 thousand recurring general fund appropriation to this program. If both SB 89 and HB 2, as amended by the Senate Finance Committee, are enacted, the program would receive a \$3.175 million appropriation in FY16, for expenditure through FY18.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM seeks to learn more about trauma-related brain injuries, particularly concussions, from studying brain scans and tests of college athletes. According to the National College Athletic Association (NCAA), concussions are of significant concern to institutions. For the brain safe program, the university seeks to partner with an organization to develop a state-of-the-art concussion-testing program. To accomplish this, the program

- Establishes a comprehensive MRI assessment of brain health collected as part of the annual physical exam for all athletes, creating a baseline scan for each athlete.
- Details within-subject comparisons of baseline scans with follow-up scans after a concussion to aid in return-to-play (or classroom) decisions
- Supplement, not altar or replace, the university's standard medical procedures for concussion assessment.

After the initial years of data collection and analysis, the university proposes to seek grant support from the federal National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, the NCAA, and National Football League. The university would also like to extend the research and application to high school programs.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

In its FY16 budget request, the university suggested performance targets that focused on the number of athletes participating in the program and data analysis completed.

TH/bb/je