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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Caballero ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/18
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 259

SHORT TITLE UNM Chicano & Chicana Studies Dept. Programs SB _____

ANALYST Dulany

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4J, Higher Education

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 259 appropriates \$250 thousand to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Chicana and Chicano Studies Department to expand the early college high school (ECHS) initiative within the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY19 shall revert to the general fund.

HAFCS/HB 2 and 3 as passed by the House of Representatives contains \$125 thousand for the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department of UNM to establish a pathway to college pilot project. The appropriation contained in HB 259 would add \$250 thousand for an ECHS initiative, which may duplicate the existing appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

HED notes this request was not submitted by UNM to HED for review. According to the

department, HED has an established formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions. This process requires prior approval by the governing body of the university or college. It also provides for analysis of each request by the HED, the Department of Finance and Administration, and LFC.

HED points out that, while HB 259 directs that unexpended or unencumbered funds at the end of FY19 to revert to the general fund, earmarked appropriations to higher education institutions typically do not revert.

HED notes UNM actively participates in New Mexico's dual credit program, which provides high school students the opportunity to earn college credit while enrolled in high school. Through this program, institutions waive tuition, and books are purchased by the local education agency, meaning dual credit courses are offered to students at no cost. The reference in the bill to an ECHS initiative within the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at UNM is most likely a dual credit initiative, based on HED's analysis. Because UNM waives tuition for dual credit courses and school districts purchase textbooks, HED indicates it is unclear how the \$250 thousand appropriation will be used.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to HED, UNM currently partners with Albuquerque Public Schools' (APS) Early College Academy (ECA) and ECHS. ECA is a college-prep magnet high school that focuses on college preparation. Classes are offered to 200 students in a small school environment. ECA classes are scheduled in the morning so that students may take Career Enrichment Center, UNM, or Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) classes in the afternoon. UNM and CNM classes may apply toward an associate or university degree.

According to HED, ECHSs allow students to earn a high school diploma and not less than 12 college credits tuition free. These credits are transferable to the partner higher education institutions as part of an organized program of study toward a postsecondary degree or credential. The department reports the goal of an ECHS is to improve the academic achievement of low-achieving students and youth underrepresented in higher education by giving admissions preference to low-income students, such that the 50 percent or more of the student body are low-income. The department further notes, to support academic achievement, an ECHS typically has one-hundred or fewer students enrolled per grade level and learning acceleration begins in ninth grade.

TD/sb