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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Salazar, T ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/19  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 359

SHORT TITLE NMHU Native American Social Work Institute SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act of \$50.0 for same purpose

Duplicates Senate Bill 258

Relates to House Bill 251, Higher Education Coordinating Council

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC FY20 Budget Recommendation, Volume 2

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 359 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for the purpose of establishing a Native American Social Work Studies Institute. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The FY20 LFC Budget Recommendation appropriates \$50 thousand for the Native American Social Work Studies Institute to ensure social workers are educated to work on or off reservation with Native American communities. The bill appropriates \$150 thousand for the same purpose.

In 2018, NMHU submitted a funding request for this purpose for \$150 thousand to fund 1.65

FTE to staff the Institute.

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. While SB258 states unexpended funds at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund, colleges and universities do not revert unexpended balances to the state general fund at yearend.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to NMHU, key objectives of the Institute would be to (1) develop curriculum for graduate training programs in indigenous social work practice; (2) introduce indigenous research methodology for curriculum development as well as integration into course content; and (3) develop faculty and leadership capacity to lead the effort.

Currently, graduate programs are approved by the State Board of Finance (SBOF) and HED.

LFC has sponsored HB 251, Higher Education Coordinating Council, which would create a forum to discuss need for new curriculum for programs like the Native American Social Work Studies Institute. HB251 would also remove SBOF from the approval requirement for graduate programs.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Native Americans experience higher rates of poverty, mental health problems, substance abuse, suicide, under- and unemployment, and lack of education. Approximately, 10 percent of New Mexico's population is Native American. According to NMHU, no other program of its kind currently exists nationally.

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