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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Memorial 24

SHORT TITLE: Study Restructuring Las Vegas Land Grant

SPONSOR: Gonzales/Serrato

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/2/26 **ANALYST:** Rommel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Attorney General	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund
Land Grant Council	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund
Courts	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund
Total	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.

Duplicates Senate Memorial 13

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Administrative Office of the Courts
New Mexico Attorney General
State Land Office

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

New Mexico Land Grant Council

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Memorial 24

House Memorial 24 (HM24) requests the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division of the New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) and the Land Grant Council study the potential consequences of restructuring the governance of the Las Vegas Land Grant, which is the only

land grant in New Mexico managed by a district court rather than by its community heirs. Because historical disputes over ownership led to its administration by the San Miguel County district court, the memorial calls for an evaluation of what might occur if management authority were removed from the court and reassigned.

The agencies are requested to analyze these impacts and report their findings to relevant legislative committees by December 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain appropriations and are not enforceable as state law. The study requested in this memorial is within the normal operations of the agencies involved and is unlikely to result in significant costs.

The district court of San Miguel manages and appoints the board of trustees for the Las Vegas Land Grant. The memorial would request the Guadalupe-Hidalgo Treaty Division of the NMAG and the Land Grant Council study potential consequences of divesting management from the 4th Judicial District Court and restructuring Las Vegas Land Grant authority. There would be costs to both entities for administering the study and for presenting their findings before the mandated deadline.

The State Land Office does not report a fiscal impact to the agency.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) reports there would be minimal administrative costs for the participation of any judicial personnel in the study.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

AOC notes the 4th Judicial District Court has expressed confusion with its role managing the land grant.

The Attorney General's office notes the Las Vegas Land Grant is unique among New Mexico's land grants-mercedes in that its management, control and administration is vested in a district court, namely, the Fourth Judicial District Court ("Court"). NMSA 1978, Section 49-6-1 (1903). Under current law, the court exercises the same control over the board of trustees that courts exercise over receivers, thus appearing to create a receivership relationship between the court and the Land Grant.

HLR/cf/sgs