FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 83
SHORT TITLE: Accelerating Resilience Innovations Drylands
SPONSOR: Campos
LAST UPDATE: **ORIGINAL DATE:** 1/27/26 **ANALYST:** Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION*
(dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	$1,937.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis
Higher Education Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 83

Senate Bill 83 (SB83) appropriates $1.94 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of creating an Accelerating Resilience Innovations in Drylands Institute for ecological monitoring of New Mexico's air, land, and water.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $1.937 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM requested a new research and public service appropriation to support the ARID Institute in the FY27 budget request. The request included $1.553 million for personnel and travel costs and an additional $338 thousand for other expenses. This appropriation was not recommended for

inclusion in the FY27 budget by the Higher Education Department (HED), the executive, or the LFC budget recommendations.

A portion of the program description submitted by UNM to HED includes the following:

> New Mexico is facing increasing pressure from changing hydrology, precipitation, temperature, and particulate matter in the air, which threatens future economic development and community vitality. The UNM ARID Institute will develop new or expand existing datasets that align with state and local governmental priorities to support informed decision-making, while inspiring and training the next generation of scientists in New Mexico.

CJ/sgs/hg/sgs