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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/5/19

SPONSOR HEC LAST UPDATED _____ HB 641/HECS

SHORT TITLE UNM African American Education Dept. SB _____

ANALYST Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY19 | FY20 | | |
| | \$300.0 | Recurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Education Committee Substitute

The House Education Committee substitute to House Bill 641 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for the purpose of continuing the work to establish an African American Education Department. The appropriation would be used to transition the Africana Studies degree into a standalone department, to improve student recruitment, student persistence and graduation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently, UNM offers through the College of Arts and Sciences a bachelors of art degree in Africana Studies.

At its main campus, UNM delivered 607,481 completed student credit hours in Academic Year 2018, of which the Africana Studies degree program delivered 1,818 completed student credit hours, or less than 0.3 percent. UNM records show no students have graduated with a first major of Africana Studies in calendar year 2017; seven students have declared a major in Africana Studies and two as pre-majors.

HB641/HECS would support transitioning this degree program into a department within UNM. The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. The appropriation will not revert to the general fund.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

UNM did not submit this request to HED for possible incorporation into its funding recommendation, which is submitted annually to the Legislature and governor. HED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the HED funding recommendation.

MV/al/gb