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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>HB69</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Ferrary/Trujillo, C.</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.216049.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Reduce College Hunger Pilot Program</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Alexander</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/29/2020</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 69 (HB69) appropriates \$100 thousand to the Higher Education Department (HED) for the creation of a pilot program to reduce college hunger.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

HB69 appropriates \$100 thousand to HED for expenditure in FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the College and University Food Bank Alliance (CUFBA), expenses incurred by food pantries, mobile food banks, and other programs intending to reduce college hunger typically include food, grocery bags, kitchen and storage maintenance, photocopies, and marketing materials.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

According to the annual “Map the Meal Gap” study produced by Feeding America, a national hunger-relief organization, New Mexico is ranked first in the nation for childhood hunger and sixth in the nation for hunger in the general population. Approximately 330 thousand people in New Mexico currently experience food insecurity, at a rate of one in six.

While there is limited data documenting the rate of college hunger in New Mexico specifically, recent studies have highlighted college hunger as a national issue. The Wisconsin HOPE Lab's 2018 study "Still Hungry and Homeless in College" surveyed 43 thousand college students in 20 states across the nation, finding that 36 percent of university students and 42 percent of community college students were food insecure in the 30 days preceding the study. The study also found that food insecurity is correlated with lower grades, longer work hours, a higher risk of unemployment, and is experienced disproportionately by marginalized students. According to a 2017 report by the Student Government Resource Center and CUFBA, poverty and food insecurity rates are often correlated; the poverty rate among college students not housed with relatives is more than three

times the national average, and the food insecurity rate is estimated to be 1.5 to four times the national average.

Universities across New Mexico are increasingly providing supplementary food assistance to students, through free programs like Aggie Cupboard at New Mexico State University and the Lobo Food Pantry at the University of New Mexico. Typically students only have to show a student identification card in order to receive groceries from such programs.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HB69 would require HED to develop and implement a pilot program to reduce college hunger. The bill does not outline the intended scope of the pilot program, required program components, or evaluation or reporting measures.

Universities participating in the pilot program would likely need to collaborate with HED on program implementation, staffing, reporting, and other administrative duties.

### **RELATED BILLS**

Relates to HM6, Task Force to Address Barriers to Food Access, which would convene a task force to assess barriers to food access.

Relates to HB75, Hunger Task Force Funding, which would appropriate \$200 thousand to the Human Services Department to convene a task force to study and assess hunger, malnutrition, and food production and distribution in New Mexico.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

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