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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Martinez, R ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 188
SHORT TITLE WNMU Indigenous Study Exchange Program SB _____
ANALYST Gelay

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 188 (HB188) appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico State University (WNMU) for the purpose of operation and support of an international student exchange program for indigenous students.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

HED expresses concern that WNMU did not submit a request for possible incorporation into the HED higher education funding recommendation. HED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the HED funding recommendation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED comments:

The International Student Exchange Program aims to promote international education and understanding among New Mexico's native population and Indigenous people of Mexico through cultural and academic exchanges. The intent of the program will be operationalized by engaging students in classroom and experiential learning by visiting various Native/Indigenous groups abroad. WNMU currently has an Office of International Studies, which manages various international initiatives that help students and scholars achieve their academic and professional goals

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB188 does not outline specific performance measures; however, if funded, WNMU should develop performance measures in coordination with HED.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

WNMU would administer this program.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB188 contains reversion language, where unexpended balances from the appropriation revert to the general fund. Higher education institutions, which includes WNMU, do not revert unexpended balances.

JGG/sb