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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez/Sedillo Lopez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/23  
BILL  
SHORT TITLE UNM Health Spanish Medical Interpreters NUMBER Senate Bill 401  
ANALYST Jorgensen

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$350.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 401

Senate Bill 401 appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico to hire additional Spanish medical interpreters throughout the University of New Mexico health system.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM reports:

UNM Health System provides free medical interpreter services 24/7 for inpatient and outpatient settings to facilitate communication for patients and families that prefer to discuss their healthcare in a language other than English in three modalities: in-person, by phone, and by video. UNMH has contracts with external vendor interpreters who provide language interpretation services in over 200 languages over the phone and video remote and in-person American Sign Language. UNMH also provides in-person medical interpreting services through staff in Spanish, Vietnamese, Navajo and American Sign Language (ASL).

CJ/al/hg