AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION
{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: *February 11, 2025*   *Check all that apply:*

Bill Number: *HB315*   Original ___ *x_* Correction ___

Amendment ___   Substitute ___

Sponsor: Luis M. Terrazas, Rebecca Dow, Harlan Vincent, Gabriel Ramos, Joseph Franklin Hernandez	**Agency Name and Code Number**: Office of Archaeological Studies P537
Short Title: Archaeology Field School Education Program	**Person Writing** John Taylor-Montoya
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	**FY26**		
	250.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	**FY26**	**FY27**		
	250.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund (19301)

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	**FY26**	**FY27**	**3 Year Total Cost**	**Recurring or Nonrecurring**	**Fund Affected**
Total						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:
HB315 appropriates $250,000 in general fund for FY26 to New Mexico State Board of Regents, to work with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation Commission, in cooperation with Department of Cultural Affairs (NMDCA), to develop statewide archaeology field school program. The funds are nonrecurring and reverting.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
Minimal, see significant issues.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES
A statewide archaeology field program would likely benefit NMDCA's Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) by increasing the pool of qualified archaeologists in New Mexico. OAS provides cost-reimbursable archaeological services to generate revenue and has at times faced a shortage of candidates for openings. If OAS actively supported the operation of the program by employing students, there would be a fiscal impact for which OAS would need financial support.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The expected outcome of the archaeological field schools is to train entry level people in fundamental archaeological methods and practices. Upon completion of the field school, attendees will have the skills necessary to successfully perform as non-supervisory field archaeologists. Standard performance measures may include development of curriculum, enrollment numbers, and completion percentage of attendees.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS
This project will require oversight by the OAS Executive Director and Director of Business Operations for planning, quality assurance and quality control, project management, and other administrative tasks.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP
None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES
None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES
None identified.

ALTERNATIVES
None identified.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL
This bill is proposed to address a labor shortage in the archaeological field in New Mexico. Stakeholders have come forward stating that projects requiring archaeological studies to fulfill regulatory requirements are being delayed because the studies are not being completed. This has resulted in delays impacting both wildfire recovery as well as fire mitigation in several areas of the state. A labor shortage in the field was identified as one component contributing to the problem. If this bill is not enacted, the labor shortage will not be addressed and the possibility remains that agriculture, infrastructure, conservation, and development projects will continue to be delayed.

AMENDMENTS
None identified.