

LFC Requester:	Liu
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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: 26 February 2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB537 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: <u>Lara, Chávez</u>		Agency Name and Code Number: <u>NM Independent Community Colleges 994</u>	
Short Title:	<u>Homeless Student Liaison</u>	Person Writing Phone:	<u>Vanessa K. Hawker Email vhawker@hawkerhynson.com</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$500.0	\$500.0	R	GF

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Indeterminate	Indeterminate		R	Institutional operating budgets

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 537 (HB537) requires each post-secondary institution enumerated in the constitution, except for New Mexico Military Institute to designate a full-time equivalent employee to act as the higher education liaison for current and incoming students experiencing homelessness.

HB537 specifies from which departments the liaison can be named and the duties of the liaison.

HB537 requires the higher education department to work with the New Mexico basic needs consortium to provide training to the liaisons.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB537 appropriates \$500 thousand to the higher education department for liaison training. Additionally, the higher education department is directed to work with the New Mexico basic needs consortium and to administer an annual survey regarding student homelessness and publish a report of the survey on the department's website.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB537 does not provide funding for the required homelessness liaisons, becoming an unfunded mandate.

Only constitutionally enumerated institutions are required to have liaisons – these institutions serve 48.9% of New Mexico's formula funded post-secondary enrollment. (Source: higher education department fall 2024 headcount statistics.) It is unclear whether this was a drafting error or intentional as homelessness does not only exist at constitutionally created institutions.

ALTERNATIVES

Redirect the \$500 thousand appropriation to New Mexico's public post-secondary institutions of higher education to fund homelessness/student basic needs liaisons to eliminate the unfunded mandate created by HB537.