



<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Affected</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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**

HB537 requires each postsecondary educational institution enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico, except the New Mexico Military Institute, the New Mexico school for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the New Mexico School for the Deaf, to designate one full-time-equivalent staff member as the higher education liaison for current and incoming students experiencing homelessness. The bill specifies duties for the liaisons and the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED).

The institutional liaison is to be designated from one of the following departments at the institution:

- financial aid;
- student services or affairs;
- student housing; or
- any other appropriate office capable of performing the liaison's duties.

The higher education liaison shall:

- identify and contact students who indicated being homeless or at risk of homelessness on a FAFSA;
- inform incoming and enrolled students experiencing homelessness about resources and assistance available on campus and in the community to meet basic needs;
- assist students experiencing homelessness to complete applications for other available financial aid;
- assist students experiencing homelessness to manage coursework;
- publish training materials for institutional faculty and staff to recognize signs of homelessness in students and refer them to the liaison; and
- publish information about on-campus and community resources for students experiencing homelessness.

The NMHED shall:

- work with the New Mexico Basic Needs Consortium to provide training to ensure best practices by the liaisons;
- work with faculty and staff regarding students experiencing homelessness; and
- administer an annual survey of students experiencing homelessness; and publish a report of the survey on the NMHED website.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB537 appropriates five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the NMHED to provide training. Any unexpended and unencumbered funds at end of FY26 revert to the General Fund.

There is no appropriation to institutions to cover the additional job duties of the homelessness liaison. There is also no additional appropriation to the NMHED to cover the cost of an annual survey.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The language of HB537 includes the constitutional universities: the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico Highlands University, Eastern New Mexico University, Western New Mexico University, and Northern New Mexico College. All the independent community colleges and the branch community colleges are not mentioned. Had the language in the bill referred to public postsecondary educational institutions in New Mexico, all of the branch and independent community colleges would have been included.

The NMHED does have some recent experience with addressing the issue of food security, and recently collaborated with a statewide study of food insecurity of students as well as faculty and staff. But the NMHED doesn't have the expertise in how to help those experiencing homelessness. The NMHED would have to reach out to other state agencies and local

community organizations that help those experiencing homelessness to gain the information needed to provide the necessary training.

#### PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There aren't any specific performance measures included in HB537.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The NMHED would administer the program and carry out the survey and the analysis of the survey. Each institution affected would need to designate a liaison and provide administrative support so that the institution could better assist students identified as experiencing homelessness.

#### CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

#### TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

#### OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

#### ALTERNATIVES

N/A

#### WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB537 is not passed, the NMHED would not have five hundred thousand dollars available to provide training to institutional liaisons on how to best assist students experiencing homelessness, and institutions would not be required to identify liaisons to specifically work on the issue of homelessness.

#### AMENDMENTS

N/A