

LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:
Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date February 27, 2025
Bill No: HB0537

Sponsor: R. Lara & E. Chávez **Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico State University/954
Short Title: Homeless Student Liaison **Person Writing** Clayton Abbey
Phone: 505-239-8821 **Email** nmsufir@nmsu.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$500		Non-recurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	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: Each of the state's public higher education institutions will designate one full-time staff member to serve as a liaison for students (current and incoming) experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The designated staff member will be from one of the following offices: Financial Aid, Student Services or Affairs, student housing, or other office capable of performing liaison's duties.

Liaison's duties are to:

1. Identify and contact students who indicated they are at risk of or experiencing homelessness on the FAFSA.
2. Inform students about resources relating to basic needs.
3. Assist such students in completing financial aid and managing coursework.
4. Publish training materials for faculty and staff on signs of homelessness, resources, and referrals.

NM HED will work with basic needs consortium to train higher ed staff liaisons in best practices for service providers and shall annually publish a survey about student homelessness.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU recognizes that our students experience housing insecurity. In a Fall 2021 survey, 45% of NMSU students reported some degree of housing insecurity.

Our office of Student Assistance Services on the Las Cruces campus reaches out through social media and to all incoming students at New Student Orientation events. This office works with students who identify as experiencing homelessness. They usually track 70 to 100 students who need assistance with housing. In some cases, we are able to accommodate them in campus housing. In all cases, we assist them with finding solutions that allow them to remain enrolled.

All students in the NMSU system can get support with basic needs through a phone app [specific

question student selects for this need is “I need help with basic needs (food, housing, clothes, etc)”. Last semester 5 students reached out using this method, and all 5 of them returned for Spring 2025.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If additional students are identified as experiencing homelessness, the person selected to be the Homeless Liaison will need to distribute some work to others in the office.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

FAFSA information will be used to identify students who might be experiencing homelessness, but it is not clear that this is permitted under FAFSA guidelines. From a [November 2024 news release from NASFAA](#), “institutions must get prior written consent from students to use or disclose FAFSA data for purposes “beyond financial aid.” “

If HED cannot get information on a student’s housing situation from FAFSA, it will be difficult to know who is at risk for experiencing homelessness. Under these circumstances, NMSU and DACC will continue to rely on self referrals for outreach.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

HED training on identifying and assisting students experiencing homelessness will allow us to reach more students on our campuses. It is easy to notice students who might be experiencing homelessness: They are the ones sleeping in the student union as soon as it opens for the morning or the ones that are often in buildings with shower facilities. Training on how to identify and approach these students would be invaluable to our communities.

AMENDMENTS