

LFC Requester: _____

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: 1/23/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB0068 Original Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Harold Pope **Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology 962
Person Writing fsdfs Analysis: The VPAF Office
Short Title: Graduate Scholarship Act Changes **Phone:** 575-835-5606 **Email:** VPAF@nmt.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	No Significant Fiscal Impact	No Significant Fiscal Impact	No Significant Fiscal Impact			

(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:

Relating to higher education; amending the Graduate Scholarship Act; changing eligibility; increasing awards.

The bill primarily proposes to:

1. Restrict award recipient to New Mexico resident;
2. Priority is students who are residents from groups underrepresented in graduate education;
3. Restrict recipients to whom earned a bachelor’s degree and maintained GPA of 3.0 or higher or holds a paid position supporting faculty teaching or research activities;
4. Require to enroll at least 6 credit hours in a graduate field of study;
5. Not exceed 100% of tuition and fees for the graduate program for the academic year;

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The institution currently does not anticipate any significant financial impact from this bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Not expected.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Not expected.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Not expected, provided no additional reporting or data analysis is required.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None for NMIMT.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Not expected.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None for NMIMT.

ALTERNATIVES

Some possible ways that would provide NMIMT greater flexibility in leveraging the funding provided through this bill:

- a. We believe it would be beneficial for all institutions to receive a minimum number of scholarships (e.g., 10), after which funding allocations can scale based on the number of minority graduate students exist at the institution. For institutions that have a wider breadth of disciplines, they will naturally have a greater population of minority graduate students.
- b. As a STEM focused institution, we recommend including women in certain fields when considering recipients for this scholarship, as women are underrepresented in STEM fields.
- c. While we appreciate the intention for this bill to serve students from NM, we also hope to attract students to NM who can stay and work in the national laboratories and companies in NM. Given the trend of declining college-age student populations, providing institutions with flexibility to recruit students to come (and ideally stay) in NM would be beneficial to the state. We believe this can be accomplished by allowing institutions to provide a subset of their awards to non-NM residents who are minority graduate students (perhaps with the suggested language from item [b] to include women for NMIMT).
- d. Finally, another alternative we recommend is to provide NMIMT the ability to grant an exception to the minority and/or resident status. This can be replaced with a requirement that the student have a fellowship whose funding agency requires the institution to provide a tuition waiver. This scholarship could then be used as a match fund for the fellowship provided by the funding agency. At this time, we believe there are over 10 graduate students who have these types of fellowships at NMIMT.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

This bill has a positive impact on graduate students and provides institutions with flexibility in supporting them. Not enacting this bill will limit our flexibility in supporting this population. Additionally, there is a demand for graduate programs – and this support in this bill enhances our ability to attract and retain graduate students. For NMIMT, this is in the high demand area of STEM disciplines – much needed by the state of NM.

AMENDMENTS