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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Tobiassen/Jaramillo/Duhigg/Brantley/  
Hamblen **LAST UPDATED** 2/20/2025  
**ORIGINAL DATE** 2/11/2025  
**BILL** Senate Bill  
**SHORT TITLE** Access to Adult Literacy Programs **NUMBER** 300/aSEC  
**ANALYST** Jorgensen

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$10,000.0	Nonrecurring	General fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From  
Higher Education Department (HED)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of SEC Amendment to Senate Bill 300

The Senate Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 300 (SB300) extends the time period for expending funds appropriated from 2 years (FY26 and FY27) to 3 years (FY26 through FY28).

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 300

Senate Bill 300 appropriates \$10 million from the general fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for the purpose of expanding access and enrollment in adult literacy programs statewide.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$10 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Although this bill does not specify future appropriations, multiyear appropriations, particularly if used to fund services and those services perform well, create an expectation the

program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost could become recurring after the funding period. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2028 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SB300 would provide an additional \$3.33 million per year to HED to support adult education programs statewide in FY26 through FY28.

HED reports:

New Mexico ranks 50th nationally in adult literacy; over 29 percent of adults in the state have low literacy. The Adult Education Division of HED oversees two educational systems, adult education and adult literacy, which together serve approximately 3.5 percent of the need for these services in the state at current levels of funding. The appropriation would enable HED to increase access to these services for more adult learners and improve learning outcomes. The appropriation spans only two fiscal years and is nonrecurring, which may limit the increase of access and enrollment sought by SB300. Outreach, enrollment, recruitment, and professional development of new teachers and tutors are all processes that play out over multiple years, typically leading to slow but steady increases in students' enrollment and learning outcomes.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The adult education division of HED would administer this program with existing resources.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

The House Appropriation and Finance Committee adopted the LFC recommendation for the HED which included an additional \$1.25 million from the general fund for adult education, a 30 percent increase over the FY25 operating budget. In addition, the recommendation included \$1 million in federal funding for the program bringing the total increase to \$2.25 million in recurring funding.

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