FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

		LAST UPDATED	
SPONSOR	Sen. Stefanics/Reps. Gonzales and Lord	**ORIGINAL DATE**	2/14/25
		BILL	
SHORT TITLE	Torrance County NM History Curriculum	**NUMBER**	Senate Bill 314
		ANALYST	Liu

APPROPRIATION*
(dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	$250.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
New Mexico State University (NMSU)
New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 314

Senate Bill 314 appropriates $250 thousand from the general fund to New Mexico State University (NMSU) in FY26 and FY27 for the purpose of developing a high school New Mexico history curriculum on the settlement of the lower Estancia Valley from pre-Columbian times through the modern era.

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 $250 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund to develop a curriculum. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Provisions of this bill appropriate funds to NMSU to spend for the Torrance County Farm and Livestock Bureau, a private nonprofit affiliated with the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. The indirect appropriation to this entity may be in violation of the Anti-donation clause of New Mexico's Constitution, which prohibits the direct or indirect donation or aid of any person, association, or public or private corporation.

The New Mexico high school history standards do not specifically mention the settlement of the lower Estancia Valley as a required standard, but do not preclude the teaching of this part of New Mexico history, as it likely fits within broader anchor or thematic state standards. For example:

Theme 2: New Mexico's Territorial Period
Anchor Standard: Geography 14. Human-Environmental Interactions and Sustainability
- Performance Standard 9-12.NMH.17. The student is able to examine the changes in the plains of New Mexico as irrigation and cattle ranches expanded into the territory.

Theme 7: Economics and Industries of New Mexico
Anchor Standard: Geography 14. Human-Environmental Interactions and Sustainability
- Performance Standard 9-12.NMH.43. The student is able to analyze how New Mexicans maintain an agricultural industry given that they live in one of the driest states in the country.

Theme 8: Resource Management and Mineral Resources in New Mexico
Anchor Standard: History 17. Historical Thinking
- Performance Standard 9-12.NMH.44. The student is able to analyze multiple perspectives of how water use, policy, and management has changed over the centuries in New Mexico.
- Performance Standard 9-12.NMH.45. The student is able to evaluate the importance of preserving historical sites, culture, and New Mexico's resources.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Provisions of this bill would require NMSU to spend the appropriation for the Torrance County Farm and Livestock Bureau to develop a curriculum for a high school New Mexico history course.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, New Mexico's total value of agriculture production in 2023 increased slightly to $3.99 billion in cash receipts, a 4 percent increase. New Mexico's chile and pecan production ranked in the top two positions in the nation in 2023. Additionally, onions ranked 5th, milk ranked 9th, and cattle and calves ranked 22nd in the nation. In the state's 21 thousand farms and ranches, 15 thousand farms had female producers. The state added 9,826 new and beginning producers in 2023, accounting for 26 percent of the state's total of 37 thousand producers.

SL/rl