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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR López/Sedillo Lopez/Hickey LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/2025
SHORT TITLE Medical Spanish Education Program BILL NUMBER Senate Bill 367
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$350.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 367

Senate Bill 367 (SB367) appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to the University of New Mexico (UNM) to develop, implement, and enhance the medical Spanish education program at the Health Sciences Center through FY27.

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 \$350 thousand 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM notes there are no bilingual higher education programs for health professions despite many of the state's higher education institutions being designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions. The

institution further states that 26 percent of Bernalillo County and 31 percent of New Mexicans speak a language other than English at home. Over 80 percent of these individuals speak Spanish.

UNM reports the appropriation in SB367 will be used for:

1. Creation, purchase, implementation, and evaluation of educational materials, learner assessments, and certification exams for students, residents, and faculty.
2. Salaries for bilingual Spanish/English faculty, staff, and standardized patients.
3. Administrative and operational support for the Health Sciences Center Medical Spanish Education Program.

CJ/tl/SR