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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lujan, B. DATE TYPED 2/10/04 HB 538

SHORT TITLE Study Effects of Susto Syndrome SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Wilson

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	\$100.0			Non-Recurring	General Fund

Duplicates SB 480

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Response Received From

New Mexico Highlands University  
Office of Indian Affairs (OIA)  
Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

#### SUMMARY

##### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 538 appropriates \$100 thousand from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to conduct a statewide study on the effects of *susto* in order to:

- evaluate the social impact of the disease identified as *susto* syndrome on the population of the State, with emphasis on the indigenous population;
- determine the effectiveness of both conventional and alternative treatment modalities;
- determine ways to address the illness through intervention, treatment and prevention; and
- identify methods to increase awareness of the negative social, mental and medical impacts of the disease.

CHE defines *Susto* as an illness attributed to a frightening event that causes the soul to leave the body, leading to symptoms of unhappiness and sickness. Symptoms are extremely variable and may occur months or years after the supposedly precipitating event.

Significant Issues

The bill will fund a study of the effects of *susto* syndrome, which is a culture-bound syndrome associated with the Hispanic community.

This study will provide an opportunity to better understand the concept of *susto* as it relates to the development of other physical illnesses (i.e., type II diabetes).

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2005 shall revert to the General Fund.

**DUPLICATION**

HB 538 duplicates SB 480

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

This request was not among those submitted for Fiscal Year 2005 funding by the New Mexico Highlands Board of Regents to the Commission on Higher Education. Consequently the Commission did not review it.

**DW/dm**