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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/07

SPONSOR Altamirano LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE WNMU Chicano/a Institute SB 268

ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$95.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 268 appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund to Western New Mexico University for the Chicano/a Institute.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$95,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 08 shall revert to the General Fund.

WNMU states that this request was submitted to HED for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY 08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

WNMU contends that Hispanic students constitute 40% of their student enrollment. Senate Bill 268 would enable the creation of the Chicano/a Institute which would offer education programs that promote understanding of the intellectual, philosophical, and social development issues sur-

rounding its Hispanic student population. The Chicano/a Institute would aim toward the development of additional Chicano Studies courses that would constitute a major. According to WNMU, there is substantial student interest in the development of a Chicano/a Institute which thereby has an impact on access to higher education for a historically underserved population as well as an increase in retention rates. Senate Bill 268 would support both program development activities as well as one full time employee to manage these activities.

AG/nt