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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/08

SPONSOR     Martinez     LAST UPDATED                      HB   466  

SHORT TITLE     WNMU Museum     SB                     

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ANALYST     Williams    

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$345.6	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 466 appropriates \$345,600 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University (WNMU) for the purpose of staffing and equipment at the university museum.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$345,600 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 09 shall revert to the General Fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED notes the appropriation would be used to provide salary and benefits, equipment, supplies, travel and other expenses. Full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members would increase to include a curator of collections, a weekend manager and a receptionist/secretary.

The museum opened to the public around 1970 and has been renovating based, in part, on a 2007 legislative appropriation of \$50,000 for Phase II of the Revitalizing History Project. The museum does not charge an entrance fee, but accepts donations.

An expansion proposal for the museum was submitted by WNMU to the HED for consideration in Fall 2007, but was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09. The project was ranked in priority order as #11 of 13 projects submitted by the university. In its November 2007 evaluation of research and public service project expansion requests and new initiatives, HED rated the WNMU museum expansion request as "would not oppose if funding available."

The January 2008 LFC report "Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects" discusses best practices for funding these types of projects.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DCA notes "the WNMU museum has a world-class collection of Mimbres and Mata Ortiz pottery that needs upgraded educational exhibits. This funding would provide for much-needed technical assistance and equipment."

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. To what extent might the university charge a museum entrance fee? How much revenue would be generated by imposing a fee?

AW/mt