

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HM 34

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .192311.2

**Short Title:** UNM School of Law Native American Programs

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Georgene Louis and Others

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 15, 2013

---

**Bill Summary:**

HM34 resolves that:

- The Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM), the President of UNM, and the Dean of the New Mexico School of Law (NMSL) be requested to conduct a full review of NMSL's commitment to and support of all of the institutional functions which affect Native American law students to determine the level of support currently provided and required in the future for those programs both statewide and nationally. The review shall include:
  - admissions and retention;
  - the Law and Indigenous Peoples Program;
  - the Southwest Indian Law Clinic;
  - the *Tribal Law Journal*; and
  - the Native Law Students Association.

HM 34 further resolves that:

- The Board of Regents of UNM, the President of UNM, and the Dean of NMSL be urged to formulate recommendations on how to maximize the impact on the:
  - Native American community of the Law and Indigenous Peoples Program;
  - Southwest Indian Law Clinic (SILC);
  - *Tribal Law Journal*; and
  - Native American Law Students Association (NALSA).

The recommendations shall take into account financial considerations and possible support for indigenous legal traditions.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

**Background:**

According to the Higher Education Department, NMSL began significant efforts in 1967 to increase the number of Native American students in law school and was the first such school in the nation to add an Indian law curriculum. The Indian Law program at NMLS offers the Indian Law Certificate, Southwest Indian Law Clinic, *Tribal Law Journal*, Native American Law Students Association, and a broad range of coursework related to Indian law. According to the UNM School of Law website, UNM School of Law was instrumental in efforts to include Indian Law as a subject on the bar examination.

**Committee Referrals:**

HHGIC

**Related Bills:**

HM 41 *Hispanic & Native American Job Skill Study*

SB 337 *UNM Native American Student Intervention*