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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Candelaria **ORIGINAL DATE** _____
LAST UPDATED 2/16/15 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Land Grant Ethnohistory Project **SB** 234

ANALYST Chavez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$204.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 234 appropriates \$204 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of funding a video record history of Spanish and Mexican community land grants for the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (SHRI).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$204 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund.

A recurring line item funding as a research and public service project (RPSP) for the UNM Land Grant Studies Program was submitted by UNM to HED for review in September. The established process requires prior approval by the governing body of the university or college and then subsequent analysis by HED, Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). Currently both the LFC and executive budget recommendations include \$131.8 thousand dollars for land grant studies activities.

The proposed expansion included in SB 234 was not submitted by UNM to HED for review. UNM states the SHRI of UNM has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for this appropriation. For FY16, the HED did not request, nor did the LFC or Executive recommend, general fund support for these initiatives.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to its website, SHRI promotes multidisciplinary research on the Latino/Hispanic populations of New Mexico and the United States. The Land Grant Studies Program (LGSP) program was created in 2008 by SHRI with support from the state of New Mexico.

UNM notes the project proposed in this bill is entirely separate from the LGSP, which provides research and technical support for community land grants. UNM adds the SHRI and the LGSP see merit in a documentary of this type, but consider it to be of a less immediate priority than the on-going support that they provide to community land grants.

KC/bb/je