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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>HB259</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Roybal Caballero</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.210035.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>UNM Chicano &amp; Chicana Studies Dept. Programs</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Terrazas</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/31/18</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/6/18</u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 259 (HB259) appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to expand the Early College High School Initiative within the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of UNM for expenditure in FY19 to expand the Early College High School Initiative within the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY19 shall revert to the general fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 and 3 as passed by the House of Representatives includes \$125 thousand for the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at UNM to establish a pathway to college pilot project.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

In the fall of 2016, the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department partnered with Albuquerque High School, Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, and Highland High School to implement an Early College High School initiative to increase the admission, retention, and graduation of first generation college students, giving participating high school students the opportunity to earn college credit before entering UNM. University faculty worked directly with high school teachers, paid a small stipend, to develop the college curriculum, which was reviewed and approved by UNM. According to the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department, the program led to greater interaction between students and staff from participating institutions. UNM faculty and students visited the high school campuses and participating high school instructors and students visited the UNM campus. In its first year, the program enrolled 118 students from the three Albuquerque Public Schools' high schools and had a 96 percent completion rate.

According to the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department, 112 of the participating students completed a survey that showed they gained exposure to higher education. Survey results showed 91 percent of students visited the UNM campus for the first time, 83 percent reported taking college credit curriculum for the first time, and 63 percent had never visited a college classroom before the program. Participating teachers reported at least 18 percent of students in the program transferred to UNM in the fall of 2017.

According to HED, early college high schools (ECHS) allow students to earn no less than 12 college credits tuition-free. Credits are transferable to the partner higher education institution toward a postsecondary degree or credential as part of an organized program of study. The goal of an ECHS is to improve the academic achievement of low-achieving students and youth underrepresented in higher education by giving admissions preference to low-income students.

### **RELATED BILLS**

HB114, College Transformational Initiative Pathway, which requires the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at UNM to establish a pilot project that expands the work of the Early College High School Initiative.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

How will the scope of the program be impacted if the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department only receives the \$125 thousand included in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 and 3?

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

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