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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number SB311 **Sponsor** Stewart/Sedillo Lopez

Tracking Number 212561.1 **Committee Referrals** SEC/SFC

Short Title UNM College of Ed Yazzie Lawsuit Needs

Analyst Sena **Original Date** 1/28/19
Last Updated _____

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 311 (SB311) would appropriate \$3.9 million to the University of New Mexico (UNM) to fund research into educator preparation practices that best serve culturally and linguistically diverse students, create bilingual education degrees in Spanish and English, and Navajo and English, hire faculty and give student stipends to address the shortage of behavior analysts, improve American Indian student retention and achievement, increase the number of American Indian educational leaders, and hire faculty and staff at UNM-Gallup.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$3.9 million from the general fund to the board of regents at UNM for expenditure in FY20. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

UNM-Gallup. SB311 would appropriate \$106.5 thousand to hire lecture faculty and a senior academic advisor to create a sustainable pipeline for teacher education students by providing advisement, tutoring, and other services, as well as a fuller schedule of face-to-face courses. The bill would also appropriate \$170 thousand to hire lecture faculty and a graduate assistant to develop a dual license in special education and elementary education.

It is unclear whether a new dual license program would award associate degrees or bachelor degrees. UNM-Gallup does not currently offer any bachelor degree programs. The campus does offer an associate's degree in early childhood multicultural education. There are 57 students currently enrolled in the program.

Research. SB311 would appropriate \$500 thousand for UNM's Center for Collaborative Research and Community Engagement (CCRCE) to award competitive proposals from education faculty for

research that would examine educator preparation practices that best serve culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Bilingual Education Degrees. The bill would appropriate \$545 thousand to hire tenure track and other faculty, a program coordinator, and an educational specialist to provide doctoral student support and graduate assistantships. The appropriation would also fund scholarships, books, and supplies for participants to accelerate the creation of bilingual education degrees in Spanish and English, and Navajo and English.

Autism. The bill would appropriate \$310 thousand to hire tenure track faculty and pay for 10 student stipends to address the severe shortage of board-certified behavior analysts to serve children with autism.

American Indian educational leadership. SB311 would appropriate \$523 thousand to develop educational infrastructure to revitalize the Institute of American Indian Education and allow the college's American Indian faculty to improve student retention and achievement in the college of education. The bill would also appropriate \$459.2 thousand to support American Indian leadership in education doctoral cohort program.

The bill would appropriate \$1.3 million to replace expiring grant funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the POLLEN cohort, an accelerated pathway to administrator licensure intended to increase the number of American Indian licensed school administrators serving American Indian students in New Mexico. The funding would provide tuition assistance, graduate assistantships, outreach and recruitment, and teacher release time. According to UNM, the POLLEN program has helped 24 students earn a degree in educational leadership. There are currently eight students in the cohort, all of whom are set to graduate in May.

Martinez and Yazzie. The provisions of SB311 address many of Judge Sarah Singleton's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit, including testimony that New Mexico teachers must have an understanding and ability to engage students from culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse backgrounds; and that many districts in New Mexico lack well-trained individuals who are able to diagnose an autism spectrum disorder.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would require the creation of multiple new programs, as well as the administration of millions of dollars in new funding.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT ENACTING THE BILL

The failure to garner more funding to replace expiring grant funds for UNM's POLLEN cohort could mean the program would be unable to support American Indian students in earning degree's in educational leadership.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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