

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov).

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/2020

SPONSOR Ferrary/Trujillo, C LAST UPDATED _____ HB 69

SHORT TITLE Reduce College Hunger Pilot Program SB _____

ANALYST Hawker

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications	See Fiscal Implication			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 69 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for the purpose of establishing a pilot program to reduce college hunger.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

HED notes there will be an administrative impact as this bill creates additional duties; however, further review by HED is necessary for them to develop an estimate on the impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The prevalence of food insecurity in higher education appears to be rising. At a national level, studies have shown varying, but inconsistent, reports of college hunger. According to the 2018 United States Government Accountability Office Report, studies ranged from 9 percent to over 50 percent of hunger insecurity on college campuses across the country. It also stated that out of 31 studies conducted, 22 of them estimated food insecurity rates to be over 30 percent; however, none of the studies utilized the same methodology. Since samples and methods varied from study to study, the results are not generalizable to the college student population as a whole. To access the 2018 United States Government Accountability Office Report in its entirety, visit the following link <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/696254.pdf>.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If passed, HB69 will result in new functions and duties to HED. These functions will likely increase HED's administrative costs. HED states further review is needed to ascertain the full financial impact.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University (NMSU), New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), Western New Mexico University (WNMU) and Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) have implemented food pantries to help alleviate hunger insecurity among their student populations.

- UNM's food pantry provides free groceries once a month.
- NMSU distributes food bags twice a week.
- NMHU gives pre-boxed packages to students, faculty, and staff twice a month.
- SFCC students may visit the food pantry once a week.

UNM recommends HED partner with higher education institutions with established food pantries to implement the pilot program and report back on the findings. UNM also recommends the following items be considered in the development of a pilot program:

- Implement program metrics that allow for destigmatizing food insecurity.
- Find sustainable resources to allow access to healthy foods.
- Implement a study to determine actual versus perceived needs in the community to include a basic needs assessment.

VKH/rl