

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

SPONSOR Martinez, J. ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 265
SHORT TITLE Study Metrics to Identify At-Risk Students SB _____
ANALYST Gelay

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$120.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 265 appropriates \$120 thousand from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of funding the Institute for the Study of “Race” and Social Justice to study metrics for identifying at-risk student populations in FY21 and FY22.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$120 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY22 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2019 the Institute for “Race” and Social Justice, the beneficiary named for the appropriation in HB265, received a \$50 thousand dollar grant from the Lumina Foundation to support six Academic Affairs Core Curriculum Faculty Fellows to develop and share tools for fostering thought about racial and social justice. As well, the faculty members will share teaching

techniques for engaging and retaining students from all backgrounds in college classes. The appropriation called for in HB265 would help identify student populations to target, could complement and enhance the work of the faculty fellows, and would enhance UNM's work toward equity and inclusion and academic excellence for all students.

On July 20, 2018, the 1st Judicial District Court issued an initial decision and order on the consolidated *Yazzie v. New Mexico* and *Martinez v. New Mexico* education sufficiency lawsuits, which found New Mexico's public education system failed to provide a sufficient education for at-risk, English language learner, Native American, and special education students. On December 20, 2018, the court issued its final findings and conclusions of law in the consolidated lawsuits. In both the initial decision and final findings, the court cited evidence highlighting areas where funding levels, financing methods, and department oversight were deficient.

RELATIONSHIP

The LFC budget recommendation for FY21 contains a \$300 thousand dollar appropriation to UNM for Native American Intervention and Retention.

JGG/al