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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2022

SPONSOR Hemphill LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE WNMU Indigenous Student Program SB 82

ANALYST Fischer

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY22	FY23		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

#### No Response Received

Western New Mexico University (WNMU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 82 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to Western New Mexico University (WNMU) to operate and support an international academic and cultural program for indigenous students. 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 \$50 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 2023 shall revert to the general fund. Although Senate Bill 82 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new program could create an expectation that the program will continue in future fiscal years, therefore this cost is scored as recurring.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

WNMU did not submit this request to either the Higher Education Department or LFC for possible incorporation into either entity's higher education funding recommendation. The Higher Education Department and LFC have a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing their funding recommendations.

According to the Higher Education Department, Senate Bill 82 seeks to establish an annual international and cultural conference in Silver City. The purpose of the conference is to give Native American students the chance to exchange ideas and seek opportunities for international education. The conference would focus on teaching Native American students that attend two-year public community colleges in New Mexico the value of transferring to a four-year public college or university in New Mexico or elsewhere.

Participants of the international and cultural conference would include Native American students who attend WNMU and other higher education institutions in New Mexico, members of the WNMU-Mexican Intercultural Universities Consortium, and WNMU faculty and administrators.

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