

1 SENATE BILL 149

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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10 AN ACT

11 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR
12 A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF A PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES
13 FREE TUITION TO GRADUATE STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRIC
14 NURSING, SOCIAL WORK AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS.

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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

17 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred thousand dollars
18 (\$100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the higher
19 education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2024 to
20 conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a program that
21 provides free tuition to graduate students in psychology,
22 psychiatric nursing, social work and counseling programs in
23 exchange for the graduate student's commitment to practice in
24 New Mexico for a minimum of four years following graduation.

25 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
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1 fiscal year 2024 shall revert to the general fund.

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