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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
56th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2024

Bill Number	<u>SB180</u>	Sponsor	<u>Padilla</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.227057.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SCC/SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Student Mentoring Program</u>		
Analyst	<u>Hathaway</u>	Original Date	<u>1/25/2024</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 180 (SB180) makes an appropriation to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for a student mentoring program at UNM’s Health Sciences Center focused on providing government training for high school students and minority student services.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$600 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of UNM for expenditure in FY25. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

About the UNM Health Sciences Center. The Health Sciences Center (HSC) at UNM is a center with a vision to “transform health care and health science education and research to improve health and health equity for New Mexico and beyond.” The HSC pursues this mission by offering patient care, offering [academic/educational programs](#) in a wide range of healthcare and health science professions—this includes programs both at the undergraduate and graduate level, as well as doctor of medicine programs and medical school residencies. The HSC also conducts research and is the only academic medical center in New Mexico—at any given time, HSC reports it manages over 300 clinical trials and 900 major research projects.

Capacity to Offer Government Training and Student Services. SB180 proposes a \$600 thousand appropriation for a student mentoring program that is focused on two services or functions: 1) providing government training for high school students; and 2) minority student services.

It is unclear if the HSC at UNM currently offers student mentoring programs focused on government training for high school students. The objective to offer minority student services, however, does seem to align with the [strategic plan](#) offered by HSC which includes “enrich[ing] student experience, educational innovation, and outcomes and includes an objective to build an integrated ‘Student Support Center.’”

Additionally, there was a \$400 thousand [appropriation](#) made to UNM for use in FY24 that is similar and provided funding for “the student mentoring program to provide government training for high school students and the minority student services office.” This may mean these programs are already in place at UNM, although it does not specifically mention the HSC.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Responsibility for managing this appropriation would fall to the board of regents at UNM with the broader management of the student mentoring program falling to HSC at UNM. The HSC would need to allocate staff time and resources to offer the programs in “government training for high school students and minority student services.” While agency analysis from UNM was not available at the time of writing this analysis, LESC staff note the board of regents at UNM currently manage several appropriations from the Legislature and would likely have the capacity to manage an additional appropriation utilizing current financial management and programmatic structures.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Student Mentoring Programs Focused on Government Training. Government training programs could include programs such as Model United Nations, student government, leadership development programs, job training programs, or other similar initiatives. While it is not clear if there are specific programs or initiatives intended to be funded with this appropriation, presumably high schools that could participate have structures in place for such programs already.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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