

LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 2/26/25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 537 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Reps. Raymundo Lara and Eleanor Chávez **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952
Short Title: Homeless Student Liaison **Number:** _____
Person Writing Lenaya Montoya
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	\$500.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	\$105,000	\$110,000	\$215,000	Recurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB 537 requires each post-secondary education institution enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the NM Constitution, except for the NM Military Institute, the NM School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and NM School for the Deaf, to designate one full-time-equivalent staff member to act as a higher education liaison for current and incoming students experiencing homelessness. The designated staff member should be from one of the following offices or departments within the institution:

1. Financial aid;
2. Student services or affairs;
3. Student housing; or
4. Any other appropriate office capable of performing the liaison's duties.

HB 537 also prescribes the duties of the higher education liaisons and of the Higher Education Department (HED).

HB 537 appropriates \$500,000 dollars to HED for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 to provide training to higher education liaisons, faculty and staff regarding students experiencing homelessness.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation contained in this bill to cover the costs of hiring the "homeless student liaison" at the higher education institutions. In order to execute the prescribed duties, specifically dedicating "one full-time-equivalent staff member to act as a higher education liaison for current and incoming students experiencing homelessness", a new position would need to be created, recruited, and hired for. Given the duties including identifying, informing, and assisting students at risk of homelessness and publishing training materials, it is estimated this would be a Grade 14 position with a salary and fringe cost of \$100,000. Further, the incumbent would need designated funds for professional development, publication, and operational expenses estimated at \$5,000 annually. The FY27 cost assumes a 5% increase overall in salary and fringe related expenses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

Every institution could surely use an additional staff person to attend to the dire situation of severely food and housing insecure students. Our request would be to alter this position to become a broader basic needs liaison as that is the trend in other states' legislation. Our reasoning for altering this particular bill is that students who are unhoused also face all the other basic needs insecurities such as being food insecure and the unhoused are a small population of the basic needs insecure so it would not be a stretch to turn this into a basic needs liaison. At certain times of the school year, there may not be a sufficient workload to justify a full FTE dedicated 100% to just the addressing students experiencing homelessness. A more general function related to basic needs may be more feasible as it would offer flexibility to perform these duties and others.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS