

LFC Requester:

Connor Jorgensen

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://www.legis.nm.gov/AgencyAnalysis) 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: 2/18/25

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SB 268/a

Original Correction Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Senators Muñoz, Shendo,
Maestas, & Tobiassen

Short Title: UNM & NMSU Athletics

Agency Name and Code Number: University of New Mexico-952

Person Writing: Lenaya Montoya

Phone: 5052771670 **Email:** lenayamontoya@unm.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	\$2,500.0	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						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Appropriates reverting \$2.5M General Fund each to the University of New Mexico (UNM) and New Mexico State University (NMSU) to fund student athletes in FY26.

The SEC amendments to SB 268 amends the appropriation language to fund “student athletes” instead of “athletics”, and removes language to make NMSU's \$2.5M contingent on its hiring an Athletics Director with at least 5 years of name, image and likeness (NIL) policy experience.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$2.5 million in funding will have a significant positive fiscal impact on the University of New Mexico by ensuring sustained support for the academic needs of student-athletes and addressing increased and inflationary costs related to team travel, cost of attendance, student-athlete welfare (e.g., nutrition, athletic training services, mental health services), and educational opportunities. This investment directly supports recruitment, retention, graduation, and gender equity initiatives. The state previously allocated a one-time \$1 million General Fund appropriation for the 2024-25 fiscal year to partially implement these efforts. The additional \$2.5 million will allow for the continuation and expansion of these initiatives, ensuring full funding for the cost of attendance in the 2025-26 fiscal year, the expansion of critical student-athlete welfare initiatives and services, and enhancing long-term student-athlete success. All funding will be used directly for student athletes as detailed above.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES- n/a

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The absence of this funding could directly impact the department's ability to enhance gender equity and student welfare initiatives, limiting opportunities for student-athletes and weakening overall program effectiveness. Without these resources, the department may struggle to remain competitive and compliant with evolving NCAA policies, potentially leading to gaps in support that affect student-athlete performance and development. Furthermore, the inability to secure this funding may reduce the institution's capacity to attract and retain top talent, ultimately diminishing academic and athletic outcomes and compromising the program's long-term success.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS- n/a

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP- n/a

TECHNICAL ISSUES- n/a

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES- n/a

ALTERNATIVES- n/a

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this bill is not enacted, the UNM Athletics Department will face significant challenges in supporting the academic needs of student-athletes, potentially impacting recruitment, retention, and graduation rates. Without the additional \$2.5 million, the ability to fully fund the cost of attendance in the 2025-26 fiscal year will be compromised, limiting financial support for student-athletes and creating disparities in academic-based opportunities. Additionally, the absence of this funding could hinder progress toward gender equity and student welfare initiatives, weakening the department's ability to remain competitive and compliant with evolving NCAA policies. Failure to secure this funding may reduce the institution's ability to attract and retain top student-athletes, negatively affecting overall program success.

With state support, the UNM Athletics Department has made significant strides in recent years to strengthen its reputation for fiscal sustainability and transparency while enhancing the student-athlete experience and maintaining compliance with evolving regulations. These efforts have also reinforced the department's competitive standing among peer institutions. However, without additional funding, the department risks losing this progress, potentially undermining its financial stability, student support initiatives, and competitive edge.

AMENDMENTS- n/a