

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(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

Senate Bill 300 (SB300) makes an appropriation to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) to expand access to and enrollment in adult literacy programs statewide. SB300 does not assign new functions and duties to NMHED; instead, it increases funding for existing programs. SB300 appropriates ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) and Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is appropriated to NMHED from the General Fund. The appropriation spans two fiscal years but is nonrecurring. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico ranks 50th nationally in adult literacy; over 29 percent of adults in the state have low literacy. The Adult Education Division of NMHED oversees two educational systems, adult education and adult literacy, which together serve approximately 3.5 percent of the need for these services in the state at current levels of funding. The appropriation would enable NMHED to increase access to these services for more adult learners and improve learning outcomes. The appropriation spans only two fiscal years and is nonrecurring, which may limit the increase of

access and enrollment sought by SB300. Outreach, enrollment, recruitment, and professional development of new teachers and tutors are all processes that play out over multiple years, typically leading to slow but steady increases in students' enrollment and learning outcomes.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB300 does not outline specific performance measures; however, if funded, the Adult Education Division will develop performance measures. If this bill passes, NMHED would be able to enroll more students, provide services in different modalities such as online and hybrid, recruit and train more teachers and students, better serve rural areas, and raise awareness of adult education and literacy services statewide.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Adult Education Division would administer this program.

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, no additional appropriation will be made. NMHED will continue to administer the adult literacy system at a level based on available funding.

AMENDMENTS

N/A