

LFC Requester:	Connor Jorgensen
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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: 2/13/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 367 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Sens. Lopez, Sedillo-Lopez, Hickey **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico HSC 952
Short Title: Medical Spanish Education Program **Person Writing** Kelly O'Donnell
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	\$350.0	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		\$175	\$175	\$350	Non	operating

(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:

Senate Bill 367 appropriates \$350 thousand dollars from the general fund to the University of New Mexico Health Science Center (HSC) for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for Spanish-language health sciences curriculum development and implementation to enhance the medical Spanish education program for health sciences center students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation will support the development, expansion, and implementation of Spanish Clinical Communication Skills training for students, residents and faculty in the School of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and College of Population Health.

Funds from SB 367 will be used for:

1. Creation, purchase, implementation, and evaluation of educational materials, learner assessments and certification exams for students, residents and faculty.
2. Salaries for bilingual Spanish/English faculty, staff, and standardized patients.
3. Administrative and operational support for the HSC Medical Spanish Education Program.

The UNM HSC, a Hispanic-Serving Institution and the largest publicly funded institution awarding health professions degrees in New Mexico, is uniquely positioned to develop New Mexico's next generation of bilingual English /Spanish healthcare workers.

The Spanish Clinical Communication Skills initiative directly increases the number of certified health professionals who can provide direct, efficient, empathetic, and linguistically competent care for Spanish-speaking patients across New Mexico.

The 2023 UNM Hospital Community Need Assessment identified "Language as a key social driver of health because it is the primary way people communicate their health needs and received health information. The inability to communicate effectively in English can be barrier to getting care and contributes to health disparities among ethnic and racial minorities in New Mexico. People with limited English may have trouble scheduling appointments, getting health insurance and navigating the increasingly complex system. Furthermore, when patients and providers don't speak the same language, it is harder to create trusting relationships and share critical health information. 26% percent of Bernalillo County and 31% percent of New Mexicans speak a language other than English at home. Over 80% of these individuals speak Spanish." ¹

SB367 will support the education of health care providers that can serve the linguistically diverse population of New Mexico. Under the US HHS National Standards for Culturally and

¹ https://unmhealth.org/about/_files/unmh-chna-2023-web-final.pdf page30

Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS), healthcare organizations must provide effective, equitable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, chosen language, health literacy, and other communications needs.²

Populations with a preferred language other than English are at risk of experiencing disparities in accessing healthcare, decreased quality of care and poorer health outcomes than English speakers. Patient-Provider language concordance has been shown to improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities.³

Many healthcare organizations have made significant efforts to provide language services for patients with non-English language preferences. However, data also shows that many healthcare providers continue to fall short of delivering language appropriate care, an issue that was magnified recently during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A 2021 national survey of 125 Medical Spanish programs in US medical schools found that 98 (78%) offered Medical Spanish education and 54% (53 out of 98) offered formal Medical Spanish courses. The study identified four standard components for Spanish medical education programs: a formal curriculum, faculty educators, learners' assessment, and institutional credit.⁴ SB367 will fund these standard components of Spanish Medical Education.

New Mexico has been a leader in bilingual education, becoming the first state to pass a bilingual multicultural education law, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, in 1969. The state's BME goal is for all participating students to become bilingual and biliterate in English and a second language, including Spanish, a Native American language, or another language.

The 2010 Hispanic Education Act supports bilingual education in higher education in New Mexico. The state has a bilingual seal education program for K-12, but there are no bilingual higher education programs for health professions despite many of the state's higher education institutions having the Hispanic Serving Institution designation. SB 367 funds will enhance the implementation of the New Mexico Hispanic Education Act in the post-secondary education of medical, nursing, pharmacy, and public health students.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB367 will increase the certification of bilingual English/Spanish healthcare professionals representing the linguistic and ethnic diversity of New Mexico's population, helping to address health disparities. SB367 will also help improve the safety and quality of health encounters for New Mexico's Spanish-speaking population.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

² <https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas>

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32507590/>

⁴ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33782890/>

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB 367 is not enacted the Medical Spanish Education Program at UNM HSC will not be implemented, as no funding is allocated within the operational budget of UNM HSC. This program does not receive federal funding.

AMENDMENTS