

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: February 20, 2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 394 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Sen. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952
Short Title: UNM-Taos Observatory **Number:** _____
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		
	\$1,500.0	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:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: SB 394 makes an appropriation to the board of regents of the university of New Mexico for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2029 for the site preparation, construction, equipping, furnishing and landscaping of an observatory, the Cielo Centro observatory, at the university of New Mexico-Taos. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2029 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 394 provides funds to assist in the completion of Cielo Centro, the observatory planned for UNM-Taos. The observatory offers a safe instructional site for astronomy classes to be held at UNM-Taos and ensures an appropriate housing, mounting, and operational facility for the King telescope, a telescope that will be the largest telescope available to the public.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The possible consequences of not enacting this bill will be lost investments including:

1. UNM-Taos has invested \$ 1 M in the feasibility study and the development of 100% Construction Documents for the observatory.
2. Voters have approved \$1.5 M for the construction of the observatory.
3. The King Family could request the return of the telescope if the university does not construct an observatory.
4. Lost opportunity to offer hands-on learning experiences to prepare NM students for the STEM workforce, specifically the growing space industry in New Mexico.

AMENDMENTS