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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hochman-Vigil LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL DATE 1/22/25  
SHORT TITLE Star Axis Sculptural Observatory BILL NUMBER House Bill 37  
ANALYST Jorgensen

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

FY25	FY26	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
\$250		Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From  
New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Bill 37

House Bill 37 (HB37) appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to New Mexico Highlands University to conduct a study to assess potential acquisition by the state of the Star Axis observatory in San Miguel County. The expenditure may be made from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2027.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Star Axis is a large-scale sculpture that shows relationships between earth and the stars. Work began on Star Axis in the 1970s and construction is ongoing. Star Axis is projected to have a public opening around 2028. The sculpture is the property of a 501(c)(3) called the Land Light Foundation and is currently located on private property and closed to the public.

CJ/r/SL2