

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 282

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Taos At-Risk Youth Education

Sponsor(s): Representative Nick L. Salazar

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 22, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 282 makes an appropriation to support construction training, general educational development (GED) certificate instruction, leadership and job skills training, vocational carpentry education and community service learning projects for at-risk youth ages 16 to 24 in Taos County.

Fiscal Impact:

\$215,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

According to DFA, the goal of this program is to address the core issues associated with low income rural life in northern New Mexico by providing education development, employment, housing and leadership skills for at-risk youth in Taos County. DFA states that a program with this mission has existed for 10 years. The program delivers services for 20 youth per program cycle (6-12 months). 90 percent of the trainees who graduate from the program are placed into relevant jobs, apprenticeship programs or continued education. 71 trainees have obtained their GED in the last seven years. Through collaboration with other entities in Taos County, this program has helped to build 20 homes and 40 apartments for low income citizens in Taos County. The program recently sold their first home that was built from the ground up solely by trainees. The income generated from this sale, will be turned around into the start-up costs for the next project. This will make the construction program sustainable, but the program needs funding for operational costs.

DFA reports that funding for this program has been provided in the past through the federal Housing and Urban Development Agency, but was not selected for continued funding.

According to the Higher Education Department, the activities of the program are:

- providing alternate education to low-income, at-risk youth ages 16-24;
- GED preparation;
- leadership development;
- life skills training to include financial management; and
- construction training.

Related Bills:

HB 139 *Taos County At-Risk Youth Education Programs*

SB 109 *Private Sector Employment for Students*