

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** HB 422

**48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008**

**Short Title:** School Activity Trophies & Medals

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Rhonda S. King

**Analyst:** David Harrell

**Date:** January 31, 2008

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 422 appropriates funds to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for trophies, medals, and printing costs for school activities, including athletics, chess, speech, and debate.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$10,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to DFA for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

As noted below, four other bills introduced during the 2008 session contain appropriations apparently for the same purpose as HB 422.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
HB 234a	Gardner	\$50,000	PED
HB 540	Foley	\$10,000	PED
CS/SB 165	Smith	\$13,400	“a statewide activities association”
SB 322	Nava, Garcia, and Papen	\$50,000	PED, for NMAA

**Issues:**

The DFA analysis of HB 422 states, “The way the bill reads now, any type of trophy or medal for any type of organization would be eligible to apply for the fund. The language infers [sic] this would be a school rewards program, but technically does not specify.” This point notwithstanding, the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) understands that the appropriation is intended to defray costs that the NMAA incurs for trophies, medals, and printing for the activities noted in the bill. Moreover, the analysis by the Public Education Department notes that schools use “various limited budget resources” to pay these costs and that the NMAA “provides trophies, medals, and printing to New Mexico schools that participate on a championship team.”

The NMAA explains that, in the past, it has used its own resources to pay the costs that the appropriation in HB 422, as well as the other bills, would pay. With this appropriation, however, NMAA would be able to devote its other resources to a variety of other purposes: pre-season meetings with parents, for example, as well as professional development for coaches.

The NMAA is financed by member dues, tournament revenues, and corporate sponsorships. According to the NMAA, these corporate sponsors provide support in a variety of ways – sometimes in-kind services, sometimes cash, and sometimes covering the costs associated with specific events, like the First Community Bank 2007 Football State Championships. In addition, the New Mexico Activities Association Foundation was established in 2007 as a nonprofit 501 c 3 organization that awards scholarships and grants to participants in interscholastic sports and other school activities. The primary mission of the foundation is to raise funds for these uses.

According to its website, the NMAA is a member-led organization that provides leadership in interscholastic athletics and activities. It was formed in 1921 as a private/nonprofit organization whose main purpose is the regulation, direction, administration, and supervision of interscholastic activities in New Mexico. Its members comprise public, private, and parochial middle/junior high and senior high schools that pay annual membership dues. The NMAA is administered by a board of 13 voting members, some elected, some appointed.

Finally, the *Public School Code* requires PED to approve or disapprove all rules promulgated by an association or organization, like the NMAA, that regulates a public school activity and to require such an association to comply with the *Open Meetings Act* and the *Public Records Act*.

**Related Bills:**

HB 234a *New Mexico Activities Association Programs*  
HB 540 *State Championship Events Trophies & Medals*  
CS/SB 165 *State Agency Expenditures*  
SB 322 *Athletic Activity Trophy & Printing Costs*