

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HB 239

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .191760.1

**Short Title:** ENMU Master's of Nursing

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Bob Wooley, Cathrynn N. Brown, and Others

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 5, 2013

---

**Bill Summary:**

HB 239 makes an appropriation for instructional staff salaries and benefits and other costs associated with the master's of nursing program at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$180,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to ENMU, there is a well-established nursing shortage in New Mexico. This shortage will only be exacerbated by anticipated growth in Medicare coverage and the forthcoming changes in the national healthcare program. ENMU further states that a master's degree in nursing education allows nurses to teach in both associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs thus helping to address the nursing faculty shortage in New Mexico.

**Background:**

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium is implementing a statewide concept-based curriculum to increase the number of New Mexico nurses and to increase the number of qualified nursing instructors in New Mexico.

The University of New Mexico is the only other school in New Mexico that offers a master's in nursing education. Currently, many nurses, especially on the east side of the state go to Texas institutions to obtain their master's degree.

HED also states that the master's degree in nursing at ENMU has been accepted as a candidate for accreditation by the National League of Nurse Accreditation Council and is up for full accreditation by the spring of 2014. The program is made up of 36 credit hours, including 12 credits in the master core and 24 credits with the education emphasis. The program anticipates that the students will complete two 3-credit classes each spring, summer, and fall semester to complete the degree within two years.

**Committee Referrals:**

HEC/HAFC

**Related Bills:**

HB 204 *Nurse Educator Higher Degree Funding*

SB 57 *UNM Health Center Nursing Enrollment*

SB 216 *ENMU Master's of Nursing Program (Identical)*