

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used for other purposes.

The most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nava DATE TYPED: 02/06/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Expand Adult & Family Literacy Services SB 352

ANALYST: Gonzales

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	\$250.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
State Library, Office of Cultural Affairs

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 352 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to the library division of the Office of Cultural Affairs for the purpose of contracting with a statewide nonprofit adult literacy organization to provide basic literacy services in areas of the state that are underserved by existing adult basic education and literacy programs.

Significant Issues

The areas of the state that are currently underserved are the far eastern and far western parts of New Mexico.

The appropriation is designated for program management and operating support for community-based literacy programs utilizing volunteer tutors to deliver expanded adult literacy services.

Technical support for these programs shall include training on evaluation standards and techniques, best practices in the delivery of literacy services, board development and training, volun

teer recruitment and support, financial and program management and quantifiable documentation of outcomes.

The State Library oversees the contract with the New Coalition for Literacy (NMCL), who in turn funds the adult basic literacy programs, states that the NMCL is only able to fund existing program grantees collectively at approximately one-third less than their stated need and request for funds.

According to the State Library, with the existing funds appropriated to the State Library for this purpose, last year NMCL funded adult basic literacy programs that utilized 79,000 volunteer hours for the neediest New Mexicans whose education is below the fourth grade level and need one-on-one instruction because they cannot, for one reason or another, fit into an institutional, classroom setting. The adult basic literacy programs funded by the NMCL differ from adult literacy programs of the State Department of Education.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy provided the following statistics regarding the existing appropriated funds for adult literacy services.

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Amount of State Appropriation	\$450.0	\$400.0	\$400.0	\$400.0	\$400.0	\$400.0
Amount Awarded in Grants to Local Literacy Programs	\$218.0	\$204.0	\$180.0	\$188.2	\$180.0	\$180.0
Average Grant to Local Programs	\$7.5	\$8.5	\$7.8	\$8.2	\$8.2	\$6.9
Total Number of Volunteer-Based Literacy Programs Statewide	90	92	95	94	94	95
Number of Programs Receiving Operating Assistance Grants	29	24	23	23	23	26
Total Number of Student Served by Funded Programs	3,484	3,934	3,400	3,550	3,500	3,889
Total Number of Instructional Hours Provided by Funded Programs	-	-	-	-	104,739	160,492
Total Number of Volunteer Hours Provided by Tutors					79,747	79,921
Total Dollar Value of Volunteer Tutor Time \$15.39/hr(2000-01)/\$16.05/hour (2001-02)*	-	-	-	-	\$1,227.3	\$1,282.7
total Number of New Tutors Trained by NMCL	761	875	993	1367	1,350	1,380
Number of Tutor Trainings Conducted by NMCL	65	73	84	102	102	96
Total Grants to Local Programs for Resource Materials	\$3.2	\$5.2	\$7.7	\$8.9	\$7.0	\$6.3

* From the independent-sector based on figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Data had not been previously collected in these category areas.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY04 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The State Library acts as a pass through for funds appropriated for adult literacy to the New Coalition for Literacy. The State Library does not take out administrative costs for administering the appropriation; therefore, additional funds for the purpose proposed by this bill would not create additional burden to the State Library.

JMG/prr