

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** SB 118

**48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007**

**Short Title:** WNMU Teacher Preparation Program

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Ben D. Altamirano

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** January 23, 2007

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 118 makes an appropriation to the Board of Regents at Western New Mexico University (WNMU) for expenditure in FY 08 to maintain the WNMU teacher preparation programs through web-based and distance education technologies.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$388,600 is appropriated from the General Fund in FY 08. Unexpended funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall revert to the General Fund. The program in SB 118 has been funded for the past two years, as follows:

- \$213,800 in FY 06, and
- \$388,600 in FY 07.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED) bill analysis and the Legislative Finance Committee's FIR, this request was submitted to HED for review, but was not included in the HED recommendation for FY 08 because WNMU is already receiving a recurring General Fund appropriation of \$388,600 in FY 07 for its web-based teacher preparation program.

**Issues:**

Web-based teacher preparation was begun at WNMU in 2004-2005. According to the Dean of the School of Education at WNMU, Dr. Patricia Manzanares-Gonzales, the funds would provide WNMU with the means to maintain the current Network for Web-based Teacher Licensure. WNMU offers undergraduate and alternative teacher preparation courses leading to licensure in elementary, secondary, special education, and career and technology teacher education. Dr. Manzanares-Gonzales reports that approximately 100 students currently are working on their teacher certification through WNMU's web-based program. The program increases access and availability to undergraduate and graduate students who cannot easily travel to Silver City or Gallup for teacher preparation coursework.

**Related Bills:**

None