

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 425

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: NMSU Regional Educational Tech Assistance

Sponsor(s): Senators Cynthia Nava and Mary Kay Papen

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 25, 2006

Bill Summary:

SB 425 creates a new section in statute that creates the Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA) Center as a professional development at center at New Mexico State University's (NMSU) College of Extended Learning. The center shall:

- provide technology integration training into teaching and learning;
- aid in professional development dossier creation;
- make use of data to drive instruction to improve student learning outcomes;
- provide internet safety, online teaching and learning, and technical assistance;
- support faculty development in integrating technology and distance learning tools;
- contribute to implementing the New Mexico Learning Network;
- make all of the services it provides available to pre-kindergarten through college throughout New Mexico; and
- prepare an annual report for the Legislature detailing the activities and accomplishments of the center.

Fiscal Impact:

SB 425 carries no appropriation.

The RETA program is funded in SB 245, *Regional Educational Technology Assistance*, which appropriates \$600,000 to NMSU.

Between FY 05 and FY 07, RETA has received approximately \$1.4 million dollars from the Teacher Professional Development Fund, including \$400,000 in FY 07. The Higher Education Department (HED) reports that the \$200,000 increase in the appropriation in SB 245 over the appropriation in FY 07 is to expand services, to build organizational capacity, and to cover an increase in operational expenses.

Issues:

A professional development program, RETA is identified by NMSU as a statewide partnership that helps New Mexico educators and administrators integrate technology into their classrooms. RETA offers workshops for administrators, teachers, assistants, librarians, and other educators that improve technology skills, offer strategies to integrate technology into classrooms, and can be customized to meet grade, school, or district needs.

The analysis of SB 425 from HED states that the RETA Center's mission is to promote innovative uses of technology to improve teaching by:

- serving educators and other education-related professionals and organizations;
- establishing collaborative partnerships to leverage resources;
- providing quality professional development opportunities; and
- developing media-rich resources.

HED reports that these services will be available from pre-kindergarten through college.

Related Bills:

SB 209 *Cyber Academy Act*

SB 245 *Regional Educational Technology Assistance*

HB 201 *Cyber Academy Act*