

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 195

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Children's Art & Education Programs

Sponsor(s): Senators John T. L. Grubestic and Nancy Rodriguez

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 24, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 195 makes an appropriation to contract with a children's museum in Santa Fe for children's art and education programs.

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

As noted by the Legislative Finance Committee in a related bill, regular contract funding of \$100,000 has been recommended for DCA's Program Support Division for FY 09. Other funds would probably be an addition to the support provided through DCA's operating budget.

According to its analysis of SB 195, DCA states that if the Santa Fe Children's Museum applies for the funding, the department will likely contract with that organization.

Issues:

According to DCA, art and education programs offered by a children's museum differ from traditional museum programs because of the age group targeted (ages 2-8) and the focus on handling objects that encourage young children to learn on their own through the discovery method. Children who are taken to museums at an early age continue to visit other types of museums as they grow older. Early educational art programs most often lead to educated public citizens who are aware of the importance of the arts in the development of critical thinking skills, problem solving, self-expression, and language skills.

According to the Public Education Department, a museum-based art and education program gives children access to concrete examples of the impact of art on their communities and their lives. Learning through the arts creates interest, discipline, focus and promotes learning and skill development.

Related Bill:

HB 209 *Albuquerque Children's Museum Programs*