

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 337

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: UNM Law School College Mentoring Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Cisco McSorley

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 29, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 337 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to fund college preparatory mentoring programs at the UNM School of Law for students in grades 8-12 in Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

Fiscal Impact:

\$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

The appropriation in SB 337 would fund a component program of ENgaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE). The ENLACE program was first implemented in New Mexico in FY 01, and over a four-year period (FY 01-FY 05) received \$4.2 million from the W.K. Kellogg foundation. Since FY 06 the Legislature has appropriated approximately \$3.24 million to the Higher Education Department (HED) to fund ENLACE, including \$1.44 million for FY 08.

According to HED, this request was not submitted to the department, and is not included in the HED funding recommendations for FY 09.

Issues:

According to the SB 337 analysis from HED, the appropriation would fund the Los Compañeros program, a component of ENLACE. The Los Compañeros initiative is currently in its seventh year, and is aimed at improving retention and graduation rates for Latino middle school, high school, and college students. The mission of the Los Compañeros mentoring program is to promote both academic and personal success among Hispanic middle and high school students in APS through a culturally relevant mentoring program provided by university students. Funding from the appropriation will be used to pay the salaries of university undergraduate student mentors. HED reports that 23 mentors currently serve the 509 middle and high school students enrolled in the Los Compañeros program.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the ENLACE programs work toward improving the educational outcomes of Hispanic students throughout all stages of their education, beginning with elementary school and continuing throughout college, with emphases on literacy in grades K-4, and dropout prevention in grades 9-10, and the first two years of higher education. Program components fit generally into three themes that build upon one another to ensure student success:

- *Changing educational institutions*, at all levels of the P-20 continuum, to be more responsive to the needs of underserved students. This includes building innovative partnerships to leverage public and private resources that offer creative ways to finance education, especially higher education, for low-income students.
- *Strengthening supports for students* by linking schools, parents, and community members through mentoring, tutoring, and leadership development to support student achievement in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.
- *Creating a seamless pathway to college* through P-20 alignment and increased rigor in curricula and standards, to ensure that students make smooth transitions from one level of school to the next.

Related Bills:

SB 41 *High School Mock Trial Program*

SB 58 *ENLACE Program at Certain Colleges*

HB 228 *UNM Law School Mentoring Programs*