

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 503

49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009

Short Title: Doña Ana Regional Educational Initiative

Sponsor(s): Representative Andy Nuñez and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 9, 2009

Bill Summary:

HB 503 makes an appropriation to implement the Doña Ana County Regional Educational Initiative (DACREI) at Doña Ana Community College (DACC).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at New Mexico State University for FY 10.

Unexpended and unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was not submitted to the department for review by DACC and is not included in HED's funding recommendations for FY 10.

HED's analysis also notes that the DACREI program seeks funding from federal, state, and private sectors.

Issues:

The Public Education Department (PED) analysis of HB 503 states that the DACREI is the result of the work of a task force commissioned in May 2007 whose members represent administrators from higher education, public school superintendents, the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, and the business community in Doña Ana County. Their goal was to develop solutions and recommendations to prepare all graduating high school students to compete in a global work force. The work of the task force suggests that there were good educational and career preparation programs implemented by several educational institutions in the area, but there was seldom interaction with each other. The task force has worked to find ways to deliver education and work force development in an integrated manner; however, the PED analysis points out that the legislation provides no details regarding the scope and outcomes of the initiative.

HED indicates that the specific purpose of this appropriation is to continue the work of the DACREI by establishing an office, hiring staff, including grant writers, and to invest in management and monitoring of the program.

Background:

HED's analysis of HB 503 states that the DACREI is a collaborative effort between private and public sectors including business, nonprofits, and both secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in Doña Ana County that work together to address:

- lack of adequate work force education;
- decline in work force preparedness and training;
- high dropout rate;
- career, technical, and vocational education; and
- K-20 educational integration.

Related Bills:

None as of 02-09-2009.