

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 217a

49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009

Short Title: UNM Geographic Information System

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava

Analyst: Peter B. van Moorsel

Date: March 13, 2009 (revised)

FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

AS AMENDED

The Senate Education Committee amendment:

- **includes the Department of Information Technology among the entities that will be involved in the development of the proposed geographic information system;**
- **requires that the proposed system be portable and secure; and**
- **requires that it be developed and managed by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of New Mexico, but not necessarily located there.**

Original Bill Summary:

SB 217 appropriates funds to the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) for the purpose of contracting with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico (UNM) to develop a geographic information system (GIS) in conjunction with:

- the Public School Capital Outlay Council;
- the Legislative Finance Committee;
- the Legislative Education Study Committee;
- the Taxation and Revenue Department;
- the Department of Finance and Administration; and
- the Public Education Department (PED).

SB 217 requires that the GIS:

- be used by executive and legislative agencies; and
- be located at and managed by the BBER at UNM.

Fiscal Impact:

\$575,000 is appropriated from the Public School Capital Outlay Fund (PSCOF) to the PSFA for expenditure in FY 10 through FY 12.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of FY 12 revert to the PSCOF.

PSFA reports that use of the GIS could allow PSFA to improve the speed of school project delivery, thereby creating school construction cost savings without compromising material or build quality.

PED cautions that appropriating money from the PSCOF for other programs¹ would reduce the funds available for the standards-based process for awarding grants for public school construction projects, as established in the *Public School Capital Outlay Act*.

Issues:

According to the PSFA, a GIS is an organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic data, and personnel designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information. A GIS can link a geographical location on a virtual map to buildings, vehicles, students, property tax areas, and bonding capabilities; and it can allow that information to be analyzed to provide comparative information for decision-makers.

The PSFA reports that the capabilities of the GIS could contribute to:

- optimizing school feeder patterns and transportation resources;
- determining the most effective locations for new schools based on expected future population flows;
- improving student forecasting accuracy within and across districts without compromising student privacy laws and/or district autonomy; and
- assessing variance in academic performance indicators across a particular school or district to use limited resources more effectively.

Related Bills:

CS/SB 255 *School Size Capital Funding & Consolidation*

*CS/SB 378 *Public School Capital Outlay Amendments*

¹ Other uses of money in the Public School Capital Outlay Fund include grants for roof repair and replacement, lease payment assistance, reimbursements to the Construction Industries Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department for building inspection costs, facility master plan assistance, and demolition allocations.