

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 54

49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010

Tracking Number: .180320.1

Short Title: NMSU Doña Ana Regional Education Initiative

Sponsor(s): Representatives Andy Nuñez and Mary Helen Garcia

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 28, 2010

Bill Summary:

HB 54 makes an appropriation to implement the Doña Ana County Regional Educational Initiative (DACREI).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at New Mexico State University (NMSU) for Doña Ana Community College (DACC) for FY 11.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

The analysis of HB 54 by the Higher Education Department (HED) indicates that this request was not submitted by NMSU to the department for review. HED also states that, due to the current economic conditions in New Mexico, not all institutions submitted funding requests for review.

Substantive Issues:

According to HED, HB 54 would institutionalize DACREI into an entity called The Bridge, which would focus its efforts on supporting the following programs beginning in the fall of 2011:

- the Early College High School, to be located on the NMSU campus, where students will be able to graduate with both a high school diploma and a two-year associate's degree, along with credits that can be applied toward a bachelor's degree;
- dual credit programs in coordination with career and technical schools; and
- development of small regional high schools in collaboration with DACC, each with a specific focus, such as health professions.

Background:

According to the Public Education Department, DACREI is a collaborative effort that includes business, non-profits, public secondary, and post-secondary institutions in Doña Ana County.

It 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 has been 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 little interaction among them. The task force has worked to find ways to deliver education and work force development in an integrated manner.

Related Bills:

None as of 1-28-2010