

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** HB 30

**48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007**

**Short Title:** Native American Educational Outreach Program

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Ray Begaye and Others

**Analyst:** Peter van Moorsel

**Date:** January 17, 2007

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 30 appropriates funds to the Indian Affairs Department to implement a culturally sensitive educational outreach program for Native American students.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$225,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. HB 30 contains a reversion clause.

**Issues:**

Both the Public Education Department's and the Indian Affairs Department's analyses of HB 30 cite the United States Census Bureau in reporting that the percentage of English-speaking only Navajos between the ages of 5 and 17 has increased from 11.8 percent in 1980 to 48.7 percent in 2000.

The Indian Affairs Department reports that the decrease in Native language fluency reflects a decline in cultural awareness among younger Native Americans, and that this is an area of growing concern for tribal leaders in New Mexico.

As listed in the Indian Affairs Department's bill analysis, the funding in HB 30 would provide educational outreach, through positive activities and leadership development programs, for Native culture, traditions, art forms, governance, health and tribal sovereignty. HB 30 has been endorsed by the 2006 Interim Indian Affairs Department and the Zuni Tribe.

In 2003, the LESC sponsored legislation that enacted the *Indian Education Act* to address the unique cultural and educational needs of Native American students statewide, who constitute approximately 11 percent of New Mexico public school enrollment. Since its enactment in 2003, the Legislature has appropriated approximately \$9.5 million to the Indian Education Fund.

**Related Bills:**

HB 28 *Promote Native American Cultural Tourism*  
SB 241 *Border & Indigenous Education Center*