

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 490

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: NM Government Education Fund

Sponsor(s): Representative Ernest H. Chavez

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 29, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 490 makes an appropriation to support annual week-long high school civics courses focusing on New Mexico state government for boys and girls to be held at postsecondary educational institutions in the state.

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the New Mexico Government Education Fund for expenditure in FY 08 and subsequent fiscal years. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department analysis of HB 490, the New Mexico Government Education Fund, which was established in 2005, supports a weeklong program of hands-on experience in democratic government and demonstrates how political parties are organized and how they work to support New Mexico government. The program promotes a non-partisan perspective through an objective educational approach.

The Public Education Department (PED) analysis of HB 490 says that participants will be exposed to the rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of franchised citizens of a democracy. The training will be practical, with city, county, and state governments operated by the students elected to various offices.

PED adds that the program supports a core strand of the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards in civics and government.

Related Bill:

HB 555 *Civic Education Programs*