

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 79

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: WNMU Early Childhood Program

Sponsor(s): Senators Howie C. Morales and John Arthur Smith

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 19, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 79 makes an appropriation to support early childhood program needs at Western New Mexico University (WNMU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$126,200 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of WNMU for expenditure in FY 09 and FY 10. The bill contains a reversion clause at the end of FY 10.

Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), WNMU is seeking an increase in funding for several early childhood programs that have been operating for several years. A request was submitted by WNMU to HED to increase base funding for these programs by \$126,200, the amount proposed in SB 79, but HED's funding recommendation for FY 09 maintains the FY 08 appropriation level of \$588,200.

According to HED, the early childhood programs at WNMU have the following goals and objectives:

- continue offering affordable quality childcare to working families allowing increased options for employment in the workforce;
- increase ability to offer year round school age care;
- continue program management of the Silver High teen Growing Tree Infant/Toddler Program;
- strengthen early intervention across all programs by implementing the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment to measure program effectiveness and establish a base for future research;
- continue the expansion of the Family Counseling Center to better provide community outreach and professional training;
- strengthen the quality of early childhood education programs; and
- expand community services projects in the area.

Related Bill:

SB 88 *NMSU Early Childhood Research*