

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** HB 564

**49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009**

**Short Title:** NM Government Education Fund

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Ernest H. Chavez and Others

**Analyst:** Dorinda Fox

**Date:** March 3, 2009

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 564 appropriates funds for expenditure in FY 09 to contract for annual weeklong high school civics courses at various postsecondary educational institutions focusing on New Mexico State Government.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the New Mexico Government Education Fund.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds do not revert to the General Fund. According to the Public Education Department (PED), which administers the fund, the current fund balance is zero.

**Issues:**

According to the Higher Education Department analysis, the civics courses funded by HB 564 would allow students to learn the operations of democratic government and political party organization as they relate to and support New Mexico government. The program promotes a non-partisan educational experience working toward increasing citizen involvement.

The PED analysis reports that the program supports a core strand of the New Mexico Social Studies Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards in civics and government. The New Mexico civics education program typically promotes a non-partisan perspective, with students learning the responsibilities of citizenship through practical application. Students are elected to hold various offices in city, county, and state governments and learn the responsibilities of those positions.

**Background:**

The New Mexico Government Education Fund was created as a non-reverting fund in the State Treasury in 2005. It is to be funded from appropriations by the Legislature, gifts, grants, and donations. \$50,000 appropriated by the Legislature in 2008, to the fund for the high school hands-on civics courses, have been contracted to an outside organization to provide education programs in June 2009.

**Related Bills:**

None as of 03-03-2009.