

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** SB 54

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

**Short Title:** Tourism Education for Public Schools

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Mary Kay Papen

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** January 22, 2009

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 54 makes an appropriation to implement a statewide hospitality and tourism education initiative in public schools at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$250,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at NMSU for FY 10.

The bill contains a reversion clause.

**Issues:**

According to both the Higher Education Department (HED) and the Tourism Department (TD), the initiative in SB 54 is known at NMSU as the ProStart program, which teaches high school students both culinary essentials and basic foodservice management while preparing them to continue their education and fill the need of skilled managers within the food service industry by blending classroom learning and work experience. SB 54 would enable NMSU to expand its bachelor's degree program in this area by preparing younger students for leadership roles and life-long careers in the hospitality industry.

According to the Public Education Department (PED), the NMSU initiative will support the Legislature's high school re-design efforts by strengthening the Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster that prepares students for postsecondary education and entry into the state's work force.

The New Mexico Restaurant Association (NMRA) indicates that the NMSU initiative would provide support for training both teachers and students and build industry connections that provide internships for students and externships for instructors as well as enabling the expansion of the hospitality industry pathway.

**Background:**

According to PED, the high school pathways in culinary arts and lodging management lead students in sequenced and focused programs of study from high school through postsecondary studies. Additionally, they set the stage for professional certifications in the restaurant and lodging industries. PED reports that 53 high schools in the state are currently implementing hospitality pathways; and the NMRA indicates that, approximately 32 schools in the state are performing to full potential.

**Related Bills:**

None as of 1-22-09.