

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 216

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191664.1

Short Title: ENMU Master's of Nursing Program

Sponsor(s): Senators Stuart Ingle and Cliff R. Pirtle

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 5, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 216 makes an appropriation for instructional staff salaries and benefits and other costs associated with the master's of nursing program at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$180,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Legislative Finance Committee Fiscal Impact Report, SB 216 is a recurring expense to the General Fund.

ENMU's bill analysis indicates that after a three-year period the program would become self-sufficient and pay its own operational costs from tuition and fee revenue and support that flows through the higher education funding formula.

Substantive Issues:

According to ENMU, there is a well-established nursing shortage in New Mexico. This shortage will only be exacerbated by anticipated growth in Medicare coverage and the forthcoming changes in the national health care program. ENMU further states that a master's degree in nursing education allows nurses to teach in both associate and baccalaureate degree nursing programs thus helping to address the nursing shortage in New Mexico.

Background:

According to HED:

- the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium is implementing a statewide concept-based curriculum to increase the number of New Mexico nurses and to increase the number of qualified nursing instructors in New Mexico.

The University of New Mexico is the only other school in New Mexico that offers a master's in nursing education. Currently, many nurses, especially on the east side of the state go to Texas institutions to obtain their master's degree.

HED also states that the master's degree in nursing at ENMU has been accepted as a candidate for accreditation by the National League of Nurse Accreditation Council and is up for full accreditation by the spring of 2014. The program is made up of 36 credit hours, including 12 credits in the master core and 24 credits with the education emphasis. The program anticipates that the students will complete two 3-credit classes each spring, summer, and fall semester to complete the degree within two years.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 57 *UNM Health Center Nursing Enrollment*

HB 204 *Nurse Educator Higher Degree Funding*

HB 239 *ENMU Master's of Nursing* (Identical)