

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 500

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192629.1

Short Title: High School Summer Civics Courses

Sponsor(s): Senator George K. Munoz

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 17, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 500 makes an appropriation to fund high school summer civics courses.

Fiscal Impact:

\$60,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of FY 14 revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to the PED bill analysis:

- a representative of the New Mexico chapter of the American Legion reports that funding in SB 500 would be used to offer senior civics education to high school students between their junior and senior year;
- the summer civics education would be offered through New Mexico Boys and Girls State, which is a summer leadership and citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary;
- The President of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) reports that the university offers college credit in civics education that:
 - focuses on how the political process operates in state government;
 - includes topics such as:
 - law;
 - civil service;
 - election procedures; and
 - parliamentary procedures; and
 - details the legislative, executive, and judicial procedures for state government.

Prior testimony to the Legislative Education Study Committee indicated that college credit in civics education is provided by ENMU for completion of the Boys and Girls State program.

Background:

According to a memorial passed by the New Mexico House of Representatives, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have sponsored Boys State and Girls State since 1935 and 1938, respectively. The program exists in every state throughout the country, with the exception of Hawaii.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 51 *Summer School Elective Civics Classes*

HM 35 *"Boys & Girls State Day"*