

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 125

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195538.1

Short Title: NMSU Economic Development Doctorate Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Patricia “Patty” A. Lundstrom

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 9, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 125 makes an appropriation to expand the Doctorate of Economic Development (DED) Program at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$169,900 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was submitted by NMSU to HED for review. HED, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the Legislative Finance Committee, reviewed the proposal as part of the budget process. HED did not request FY 15 General Fund support for this expansion project, and, according to the Fiscal Impact Report, neither the LFC nor the Executive supported the increase.

Substantive Issues:

According to NMSU, the appropriation in HB 125 funding would:

- make the DED program more widely available by using distance education technology to reduce the required travel time for students to the Las Cruces campus;
- provide additional graduate assistantships to recruit talented students to the program; and
- fund summer seminars which promote interactions between doctoral candidates and Economic Development professionals.

Background:

NMSU states that the DED program provides advanced training to allow students to apply their academic knowledge to the real challenges of regional economic development. As such, it serves NMSU’s goal to “be the economic engine for New Mexico through linking and strengthening research and economic development partnerships” and it serves the state as it seeks to diversify its economy away from an emphasis on government employment. Graduates of the

program have the ability to assess competing strategies for development and assist the state in achieving its goals efficiently and sustainably.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

None as of February 9, 2014.