

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 103

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195665.1

Short Title: WICHE Veterinary Doctorate Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Gay G. Kernan

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 4, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 103 makes an appropriation to fund at least two additional slots for New Mexico students in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Veterinary Doctorate Program (VDP).

Fiscal Impact:

\$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for expenditure in FY 15 through FY 18. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 18.

Substantive Issues:

According to HED, the appropriation in SB 103 would permit HED to increase the number of veterinary slots up to seven, including the eight obligated under the recommend appropriation for FY 15.

Background:

According to the WICHE website, residents of WICHE states can gain affordable access to university programs not offered in their own states, avoiding costly and unnecessary duplication of programs and facilities. New Mexico has been a WICHE member since 1951. Veterinary doctorate programs are offered at the:

- University of California, Davis, CA;
- Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO;
- Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR; and
- Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

According to HED, each student demonstrating adequate progress in the program is guaranteed support through the WICHE Loan for Service Program for four years. Upon completion of the professional program recipients return to New Mexico to practice in their field.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 7 *General Appropriation Act of 2014*

SB 15 *Dental Students in WICHE Program*