

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 343

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .199259.1

Short Title: Guadalupe County Early Childhood Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Pete Campos

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 26, 2015

Bill Summary:

SB 343 makes an appropriation to improve and expand early childhood programs in Guadalupe County and in Anton Chico.

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

The Legislature has funded early childhood education programs at the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the Public Education Department for several years. There are also other government-based and private providers of early childhood services in some communities. Each of these agencies provides unique services. It is unclear from the language in SB 343 if any specific kind of early childhood education program is contemplated for the expansion effort. In addition, the fiscal impact report from the Legislative Finance Committee cautions that bills containing location-specific appropriations may raise issues with the anti-donation clause of the New Mexico constitution.

Substantive Issues:

In 2010, CYFD established the Early Childhood Investment Zones (ECIZ). Under the ECIZ, Guadalupe County has two such investment zones in the:

- Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools; and
- Vaughn Municipal Schools.

According to CYFD, Guadalupe County ranked seventh among New Mexico counties in severity for early childhood risk factors. The high-risk indicators and factors in which Guadalupe County ranked particularly high are:

- low, and very low birth weight babies;
- juvenile arrests;

- unemployment; and
- child abuse.

Background:

As part of the ECIZ, CYFD produced 2014 reports on early childhood issues for all New Mexico counties, including the *Guadalupe County Early Childhood Data Profile*. Since that time CYFD has prioritized early childhood funding for communities when new funding streams become available for early childhood services. The data allowed a broad examination of indicators associated with:

- health;
- family environment;
- poverty levels;
- child development; and
- factors that support literacy and school readiness.

Also included were indicators related to school success, including:

- graduation rates;
- resource investment at the school district level; and
- support for pregnant and parenting teens.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 301 *Create Early Childhood Funds*
SB 304 *Early Childhood Books and Toys*
SB 344 *Northeastern NM Early Childhood Programs*