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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number	<u>HB340</u>	Sponsors	<u>Martinez, Ru./Romero, G. Andres/ Trujillo, L./ Romero, Andrea/Trujillo, Ch.</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.212589.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HLLC/HAFC</u>
Short Title	<u>National History Day Program</u>		
Analyst	<u>Bedeaux</u>	Original Date	<u>1/31/19</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 340 (HB340) would appropriate \$150 thousand to the library services program of the Cultural Affairs Department (DCA) in FY20 to support schools participating in the National History Day program.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB340 would appropriate \$150 thousand from the general fund to the library services program of DCA for expenditure in FY20. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The National History Day program is a competition that involves students in the production of documentaries, exhibits, papers, performances, and websites based on historical figures or events. Students may compete as individuals or as part of a team of five members, and must include an extensive annotated bibliography with their work. New Mexico holds regional competitions in Farmington, Las Cruces, and Albuquerque, from which the top three students in each event advance to the state competition. Since 2007, New Mexico has sent competitors to the national finals every year, claiming 14 national medals.

At a November 2017 LESC hearing, the state's National History Day program director with the New Mexico Humanities Council explained how the council sponsors National History Day Students to provide equipment, contest judges, classroom outreach, teacher materials, and stipends for travel. It costs the council approximately \$55 thousand to subsidize the trip to the national competition. The council heavily relies on local communities to help cover the cost of regional, state, and national competitions.

The General Appropriations Act (GAA) for FY18 included \$75 thousand to support the National History Day program, but the appropriation was line-item vetoed. The GAA for FY19 included \$100 thousand to support the program, but this was also line-item vetoed.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In November 2017, students from the program testified before the LESC, presenting their experiences in the National History Day program. The students reported improved public speaking skills, reading comprehension, composition, and research skills. Individual students presented their projects, including a documentary on the conflicts between President Kennedy and his advisors, a documentary on the inclusion of African American students on the 1966 Texas Western Miners Basketball team, a performance about Chiricahua Apache Indian chiefs Nana and Vicotrio, and a performance about Sophic Schull, a German World War II college student and anti-Nazi activist who was executed for her activism.

A 2012 study, *History Day Works, Findings from the National Program Evaluation*, indicates that students participating in the National History Day program have college-level research and analytical skills, are better writers, show higher levels of civic engagement, and have a mature perspective on current events.

RELATED BILLS

Substantively duplicates SB380, National History Day Program, which appropriates \$100 thousand in FY20 to the library services program of DCA for the program.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

TB/mc/mhg