

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 271

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191087.1SA

Short Title: NMSU Coop Extension Service

Sponsor(s): Representative Doreen Y. Gallegos and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 13, 2013

Bill Summary:

HB 271 makes an appropriation to support the operation of the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$1.0 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to NMSU, expansion dollars in HB 271 will be used to:

- provide long-term funding for a CES wild land fire management specialist position;
- maintain CES county extension faculty in each county; and
- hire new AES faculty researchers at Alcalde, Artesia, Los Lunas, and Tucumcari.

Background:

The Higher Education Department (HED) analysis of HB 271 states that CES, which is central to NMSU's land grant mission, provides practical, research-based knowledge and programs related to:

- agriculture and food;
- home and family;
- the environment;
- community economic development; and
- youth programs.

HED further states that AES is the principle research unit of NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. It supports research designed to:

- enhance agricultural profitability;
- stimulate economic development using natural resources;
- improve the quality, safety, and reliability of food and fiber products;
- manage and protect natural resources; and
- sustain and protect the environment with ecologically sound practices.

Committee Referrals:

HAGC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 11 *General Appropriation Act of 2013*