

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 254

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191092.1SA

Short Title: NMSU Arrowhead Center

Sponsor(s): Senator Joseph Cervantes

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 6, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 254 makes an appropriation to support the Arrowhead Center for Business Development (ACBD) at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$205,600 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:

NMSU states that increased funding will allow ACBD to:

- support more clients statewide;
- provide more students on campus directed learned experiences that will increase their employability upon graduation;
- enhance existing and begin new private-public partnerships; and
- apply for federal grants fostering economic development.

NMSU also notes that General Fund appropriations have been reduced for ACBD by over 27 percent since FY 09. With the requested increase ACBD can continue to ensure that valuable economic resources are enhanced both in terms of number of citizens served and in geographic distribution of services.

Background:

According to NMSU, the mission of ACBD is to promote prosperity and public welfare in New Mexico through economic development. ACBD strives to achieve its mission through:

- directed learning experiences of students;
- sustainable economic development statewide; and
- diversification of the NMSU funding base.

NMSU also states that the primary activities of ACBD are:

- development of the Arrowhead Research Park;
- the Entrepreneurship Institute, which employs students to work with entrepreneurs and clients statewide;

- the Arrowhead Technology Incubator, which provides space and programs for start-up companies, frequently in cooperation with New Mexico's national laboratories as part of the New Mexico Small Business Assistance program; and
- technology transfer.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 42 *Statewide Certified Business Incubators*

HB 11 *General Appropriation Act of 2013*

HB 240 *Small Business Development Fund Act*