

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HB 62

**51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014**

**Tracking Number:** .195145.2

**Short Title:** NMSU Indian Resource Development Program

**Sponsor(s):** Representative James Roger Madalena

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** January 29, 2014

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**FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Bill Summary:**

HB 62 makes an appropriation to fund the Indian Resource Development Program (IRDP) at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and to support recruitment and retention of American Indian students at NMSU.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$172,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to the Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) from the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), the IRDP received a \$222,200 General Fund appropriation for FY 14. NMSU submitted a FY 15 budget request for this project to the Higher Education Department (HED) as part of the department's process for considering research and public service projects.

According to HED, NMSU requested a program expansion of \$200,000 for a total FY 15 General Fund request of \$422,200, a 90 percent increase over FY 14. The FIR, however, states that the expansion request was \$172,000 and that this amount would result in a 77 percent increase over FY 14.

HED, the Department of Finance and Administration, and LFC reviewed the program request and expansion, but HED did not request additional General Fund support for this project, and neither the LFC nor the Executive recommended additional FY 15 funding for this project.

HED stated in its 2013 analysis of a similar bill that the state appropriation for IRDP has declined since FY 08, when the funding level was just under \$400,000. NMSU points out that FY 14 funding for the IRDP is at 55 percent of the funding average over the last five fiscal years.

### **Substantive Issues:**

According to NMSU, the *Indian Resources Development Act* sets forth the purpose of IRDP at NMSU, which is to help Native American students prepare for careers in agricultural sciences, engineering sciences, and management positions in irrigation projects and energy resources development to the end that the economic growth and public welfare of New Mexico will be promoted. The act also provides that NMSU shall contract with other institutions of higher education located within the state, as needed, for required services pursuant to the provisions and purposes of the act. IRDP has worked with UNM and New Mexico Tech to provide financial support to some of their programs. Qualified Native American students who are residents of New Mexico and who are majoring in agricultural, engineering, and associated management sciences at any institution of higher education located within New Mexico are eligible for the services provided by the funds appropriated for such development.

### **Background:**

According to NMSU, IRDP began in 1977 when NMSU was awarded a W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant to encourage Navajo students to pursue degrees in agriculture and business. Before the grant expired, the New Mexico Legislature approved the enacting statute that:

- continued the objectives of the Kellogg grant by maintaining best practices;
- expanded the scope of participants to include all tribes;
- included the disciplines of engineering, sciences, natural resources, economic development; and
- provided an annual budget.

### **Committee Referrals:**

HEC/HAFC

### **Related Bills:**

HB 7 *General Appropriations Act of 2014*