

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 213

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .196085.1

Short Title: Doña Ana At-Risk Youth Intervention Program

Sponsor(s): Senator William P. Soules

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 13, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 213 makes an appropriation for the School of Social Work (SSW) at New Mexico State University (NMSU) to research, design, and implement a pilot project to reduce early court intervention for at-risk youth in Doña Ana County.

Also the bill requires the SSW to report to the interim Health and Human Services Committee once during each fiscal year of the appropriation regarding the research, progress, and outcomes related to the pilot project.

Fiscal Impact:

\$75,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 15 and FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 16.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was not submitted by NMSU to HED for budget review.

Substantive Issues:

HED states that the pilot project proposed in SB 213 would develop research and programs to divert youth away from the juvenile justice system and into a network of non-adjudication programs and social services, such as family support services. The diversion program would apply only to youth who have committed minor infractions of the law.

Background:

According to HED, civil liberties organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, have described the use of the judicial system for minor infractions by youths as the “school to prison pipeline.” Many youths who suffer learning disabilities, poverty, abuse or neglect, and a large proportion of minority students, are now driven into the judicial system, often due to “zero tolerance,” policies

HED also notes that the NMSU SSW has been conducting research on domestic violence, family violence risk factors, police reports, child abuse reports, and driving while intoxicated rates and related programs in Doña Ana County for several years.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 73 *Adverse Childhood Event Screening & Referrals*