

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 298

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

**Tracking Number:** .195910.1

**Short Title:** Guadalupe County Early Childhood Programs

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Pete Campos

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 15, 2014

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 298 makes an appropriation to improve and expand early childhood education programs in Guadalupe County and Anton Chico.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

Noting that the appropriation for this particular early childhood initiative is directed to the local Government Division of the DFA, the analysis of SB 298 by the Department of Health (DOH) points out early childhood care and education programs are administered by the:

- Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), specifically PreK, child-care, and home visiting;
- Public Education Department (PED), specifically PreK and Preschool Special education; and
- DOH, specifically the Family Infant Toddler Program.

DOH also notes that SB 298 does not specify whether the funding is for all early childhood education programs or for any specific program.

**Background:**

According to both DOH and CYFD, Guadalupe County has been identified as an Early Childhood Investment Zone, based on 2010 data that indicates that children in that area are significantly at risk. In fact, Guadalupe County ranks 7<sup>th</sup> among New Mexico counties for the degree of risk factors for children.

**Committee Referrals:**

SCC/SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

HB 7 *General Appropriation Act of 2014*

HB 108 *Rio Arriba Bilingual Early Childhood Program*

SB 255 *Early Childhood Reading Literacy Program*