

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 182

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .198901.1

Short Title: Incorporate Arts into K-12 Education

Sponsor(s): Senator Cisco McSorley

Analyst: James Ball and David Harrell

Date: February 17, 2015

Bill Summary:

SB 182 makes an appropriation to create regional centers throughout New Mexico to assist highly qualified arts educators to incorporate the arts into K-12 standards-based instruction by providing:

- curriculum alignment;
- professional development;
- technical assistance;
- portfolio assessment;
- program support; and
- networking opportunities.

Fiscal Impact:

\$350,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 16 and subsequent years. Unexpended or unencumbered funds will not revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

During the 2014 interim, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard testimony on a similar bill that had been introduced but not passed in the 2014 session. That bill, SB 250, *Incorporate Arts into Classroom Instruction*, would have appropriated \$350,000 to PED to create regional centers throughout the state to assist licensed school employees to incorporate the arts into classroom instruction.

According to the sponsor of the legislation, the initiative was based on recent research, which has confirmed that core subjects taught through arts-based curricula have a more significant positive impact on students' learning. Notably, the bill did not seek to dictate what should be taught in the classroom; rather, it would have assisted teachers throughout the state to develop arts-based instruction on their own; and it would have built upon successes the state has experienced since the passage of the *Fine Arts Education Act*. The sponsor also testified that one key problem with the implementation of the *Fine Arts Education Act* is that the infrastructure and supports have not been made available to school districts to effectively carry out the intent of the act, particularly in rural school districts. Even so, some districts have invested in the arts and have experienced success.

Other testimony came from a member of the New Mexico Advisory Council for Arts Education (NMACAE) and from the Director of Education and Community Programs, The Santa Fe Opera.

- The NMACAE member testified that the council is seeking help to implement recently released national arts standards into New Mexico classrooms, hopefully with financial support through legislation.
- Addressing a committee question about the role of the Regional Education Centers (RECs), the Santa Fe Opera representative testified that RECs would be contracted to host professional development services, but that there would be a competitive request for proposals for the organization that actually provides the professional development.

According to PED, the appropriation in SB 182 creates regional centers throughout the state to perform the services outlined in the bill although there are nine regional education centers already in existence for the purpose of assisting school districts with educational programming and coordination. The intent of the creation of new centers is unclear.

PED also notes that the State Equalization Guarantee provides funding for arts education in elementary schools. Public schools, including charter schools, receive funding for *Fine Arts Education Act* implementation.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 210 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*

HB 5 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*