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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020

Bill Number	<u>SB35</u>	Sponsor	<u>Soules</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.216336.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Approp to NMSU for Prevention of Child Abuse</u>		
Analyst	<u>Andrews</u>	Original Date	<u>1/27/2020</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/19/2020</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 35 (SB35) would make an appropriation from the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to provide funding for the Anna, Age Eight Institute for the data-driven prevention of childhood trauma and maltreatment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$6 million from the general fund to the board of regents at NMSU for expenditure in FY21 and FY22. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

The Senate Finance Committee Amendment to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFCS/aSFC) includes an appropriation for \$874 for the Anna, Age Eight Institute at NMSU.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Anna, Age Eight Institute. The Anna, Age Eight Institute was inspired by *Anna, Age Eight: The Data-Driven Prevention of Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment* by Katherine Ortega Courtney, Ph.D. and Dominic Cappello, both of whom have extensive experience in state welfare departments, much of it in New Mexico. The book highlights the need for better data and data management to help prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), "... if we can get the right data together and tell the story of keeping all children safe as simply and intuitively as possible, solutions will become pretty obvious soon enough." ACEs are defined as 10 potentially traumatic experiences that fall into the categories of abuse, neglect, and other household challenges that occur before a child reaches their 18th birthday. A hallmark 1997 study revealed the connection between a high number of ACEs and an increased risk of unhealthy behavior, such as smoking cigarettes, and disease.

Relocation of the Institute. The Anna, Age Eight Institute was created at NNMC in 2019. Laws 2019, Chapter 278 (Senate Bill 536) appropriated \$474 thousand in recurring funds to establish and operate the Anna, Age Eight Institute at NNMC. However, according to NMSU, NNMC and the Anna, Age Eight Institute have determined it would be best for the Institute to relocate to the cooperative extension service at NMSU.

According to HED, the Anna, Age Eight Institute has grown significantly, and is in the process of moving to NMSU. According to HED, the Anna, Age Eight Institute currently provides services in Rio Arriba, Socorro, and Doña Ana Counties. The Anna, Age Institute is seeking funding to expand into seven additional counties: Bernalillo, Grant, Mora, Otero, Santa Fe, San Miguel, and Roosevelt.

The cooperative extension service at NMSU provides “the people of New Mexico with practical, research-based knowledge and programs to improve their quality of life.” NMSU’s cooperative extension service currently houses programs for 4-H, youth development and education, and economic development for New Mexico communities, among other areas.

According to NMSU, the Anna, Age Eight Institute would be part of their cooperative extension service. While NMSU’s cooperative extension service did go through the RPSP process, it is unclear if Anna, Age Eight Institute would fit in cooperative extension service. According to the program description, cooperative education service helps people use university-based research to improve their lives through programs related to agriculture, food, home, family, the environment, economic development, and 4-H. HB2/HAFCS/aSFC includes \$13.7 million in general fund revenues, \$4.8 million in other state funds, and \$9.1 million – for a total of \$27.6 million – for NMSU’s cooperative extension service.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to NMSU, SB35 would allow for three new full-time staff positions, as well as contracts with project managers in up to five new counties to oversee county initiatives, in addition to the counties currently supported. NMSU notes SB35 would increase the Anna, Age Eight Institute’s capacity to convene leaders in all 10 service sectors and increase their capacity to improve the quality and accessibility of family services.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
- Higher Education Department (HED)
- New Mexico State University (NMSU)

MCA/tb/mc/sgs