

**NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.**

**Only the most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC's office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.**

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Nava DATE TYPED: 01/26/02 HB

SHORT TITLE: Statewide Public Service Learning Program SB 77

ANALYST: Baca

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$350.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education (SDE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 771 provides \$350.0 from the general fund to the State Department of Education for a service learning program in the public school that academic curricula and other educational initiatives, so that students, including students with disabilities, are provided public service learning opportunities. The department is required to collaborate with the Commission on Higher Education to ensure involvement of postsecondary institutions.

#### Significant Issues

The SDE states that the program is currently being implemented in some school districts. The need for expansion is evidenced by student needs and the program's success. Because of limited resources, not all New Mexico students are able to share in the benefits of the Service Learning programs offered by participating agencies.

The benefits of applying students' knowledge and skills in the context of community service brings needed relevance to the academic curriculum and can be an important factor for increasing student achievement levels and decreasing the rate of high school dropouts. As such, an expansion of Service Learning opportunities can constitute a significant contribution to statewide school reform efforts.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$350.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any expended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY2003 shall revert to the general fund.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SDE states that additional staff will be needed to administer the program expansion. However, no specifics regarding the number of staff are provided.

The SDE analysis shows the appropriation as non-recurring. However, the analysis narrative strongly suggests the program is on-going and continuing appropriations will be required.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. How are existing programs being funded ?
2. How many students are currently participating in program ? From how many school districts ?
3. How many additional students and school districts may become participants if this bill is funded ?

LB/ar