

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 390

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Native American Distance Education Program

Sponsor(s): Representative James Roger Madalena and Others

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 29, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 390 appropriates funds to the Indian Affairs Department to plan for and support a distance education program for Native American tribal members and program managers.

Fiscal Impact:

\$30,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

HB 2 et al., the *General Appropriation Act of 2008*, includes \$500,000 for the Statewide Cyber Academy.

The budget of the Higher Education Department (HED) also includes \$500,000 for the operation of Innovative Digital Education and Learning-NM (IDEAL-NM).

Issues:

The 2007 Legislature enacted legislation to create the Statewide Cyber Academy which, when fully implemented, will provide a full catalog of courses to K-12 students statewide.

In addition to the K-12 courses provided by the Statewide Cyber Academy, IDEAL-NM will allow for the online delivery of higher education, professional development and workforce training courses throughout the state.

According to the bill analysis from HED, the program funded by HB 390 could aid Native American students in accessing other education programs, including:

- The Center of Extended Learning at NMSU, which currently serves Native American student populations among the 22 pueblos and tribes in New Mexico. The Center provides scholarships to Native American students that transfer from tribal colleges in New Mexico to NMSU to ensure successful completion of degree programs.
- The partnership with Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) and the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. (ENIPC) for distance education in the eight pueblo communities (Tesuque, Nambe, Pojoaque, Taos, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Ohkay Owingeh, and Picuris). HED reports that the program could aid in the partnership in creating distance education centers in each of the pueblo communities.

Related Bills:

HB 2 et al. *General Appropriation Act of 2008*

HB 154 *Rio Rancho Cyber Academy*

HB 169 *NMSU Digital Pathways Education Program*

HB 189 *WNMU Internet-Based Teacher Program*

HB 434 *Educational Tech Deficiency Correction Fund*