

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** HB 429

**48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008**

**Short Title:** ENMU English as Second Language Institute

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Jose A. Campos and Others

**Analyst:** Eilani Gerstner

**Date:** January 31, 2008

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 429 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) to create and implement an English as a second language (ESL) institute, which would provide intensive instruction in the English language to individuals with limited proficiency in English.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$175,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09 and subsequent fiscal years. HB 429 does not contain a reversion clause.

The analysis of HB 429 by the Higher Education Department (HED) notes that this program is not included in HED's FY 09 funding recommendations.

**Issues:**

HED's analysis says that the funding provided in HB 429 would be used for hiring faculty and staff for the ESL institute and purchasing necessary software. The institute would provide an intensive, eight-hour per day immersion program for individuals with limited English proficiency from eastern New Mexico. HED also notes that, although similar institutes exist in the state, the ESL institute would be unique and fill an unmet need.

The Legislative Finance Committee Fiscal Impact Report of HB 429 says the ESL institute at ENMU will include:

- intensive summer outreach programs for the regional community for incoming college students;
- year-round collaborations with area K-12 schools that have limited English proficient students; and
- services for ENMU students from foreign countries and community members seeking their GED or citizenship.

The Public Education Department analysis also notes that, because adult learners are models for their children, the ESL institute would have a positive impact on English language learner students in grades K-12.

**Related Bills:**

None