

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 545

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Taos Schools Water Conservation Education

Sponsor(s): Representative Nick L. Salazar

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 31, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 545 makes an appropriation to support water conservation education in the Taos Public Schools.

Fiscal Impact:

\$40,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

According to the PED analysis of HB 545:

- there are several entities that offer water conservation education programs to youth in New Mexico, each emphasizing the importance of building a strong connection between children, their natural environment, and their cultural heritage;
- water conservation education projects can align with New Mexico Science Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards, especially those that address the “complex relationships between living things and their environment”; and
- the appropriation could support a supplemental program for all students or be incorporated into the school district’s curriculum or be offered in some other way.

Related Bills:

HB 513 *Taos Schools Water Conservation Education* (identical)

HB 515 *Taos Schools Water Conservation Education* (identical)

HB 559 *Taos Water Conservation Education* (identical)