

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 555

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Civic Education Programs

Sponsor(s): Representative Rick Miera

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 31, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 555 makes an appropriation to support programs that promote the importance of civic education.

Fiscal Impact:

\$20,000 is appropriated to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

Civics and government are among the core academic subjects identified in the *No Child Left Behind Act*. In addition, state law requires that students complete three units in social science for high school graduation, including coursework in government. According to the PED analysis of HB 555, the appropriation could be used assist students in attaining the New Mexico Social Studies Content Standards for civics and government.

Although the specific means for promoting civics education are not specified in HB 555, there are two active nonprofit organizations that promote civics education in New Mexico schools. According to its website, the Center for Democracy and Civic Education (CDCE) seeks to promote the improvement of democratic values, civic competence, and responsibility among New Mexico's elementary and secondary students. In order to accomplish this mission, CDCE creates a network of classroom teachers, curriculum coordinators, educational administrators, parents, college and university teacher education programs, PED personnel, and other interested citizens for the improvement of classroom instruction in civic education in a democratic society.

The Center for Civic Education (CCE) is a another nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries. CCE's website describes a project in school violence prevention they have sponsored in the Clovis Municipal Schools.

The scope of HB 555 may be assumed to be statewide since the bill does not specify any geographic area of the state for assistance.

Related Bill:

HB 490 *NM Government Education Fund*