

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 75

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: NMSU Early Childhood Program

Sponsor(s): Representatives Gloria Vaughn and W. C. "Dub" Williams

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 20, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 75 makes an appropriation to pay for a pilot program at the Alamogordo campus of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to provide training for early childhood service providers in Otero and Lincoln counties.

Fiscal Impact:

\$16,500 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

While HB 75 is intended to be an on-site program, according to a NMSU website, faculty members, using a grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, are also piloting a new online version of a certification program for child-care workers specializing in infant and toddler care. Early childhood faculty members at NMSU are working with an interdisciplinary team including technology and early childhood specialists to offer a three-course certification from the state Office of Child Development online. The combination of online resources and on-site delivery strengthens NMSU's outreach training programs.

HB 75 provides funding for NMSU outreach to early childhood professionals through symposia and dissemination of research in the field of early childhood education. The bill also addresses the growing need for additional early childhood teachers in light of the statewide increase in pre-K programs.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED) this request was not submitted by NMSU-Alamogordo to HED for review and is not included in the department's funding recommendation for FY 09.

Related Bill:

SB 88 *NMSU Early Childhood Research*