

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 214

49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009

Short Title: NMHU Ben Lujan Leadership Institute

Sponsor(s): Representatives Richard D. Vigil and Thomas A. Garcia

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 26, 2009

Bill Summary:

HB 214 makes an appropriation to continue collaborative programs, to explore New Mexico policy issues and to develop a curriculum for use by schools dealing with youth entrepreneurship through the Ben Lujan Leadership and Public Policy Institute (BLLPPI) at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at NMHU for FY 10.

HB 214 contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the BLLPPI:

- maintains partnerships with in-state and out-of-state organizations, including other universities;
- supports research studies with policy implications for New Mexico related to land and water, education, and health care;
- provides leadership development opportunities for students, including participation in policy institutes, mentorships, internships, and educational leadership programs; and
- convenes symposia, in partnership with other organizations, addressing contemporary policy issues.

HED also points out that administrative oversight of the BLLPPI is currently a function of, and will continue to be a function of, the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) at NMHU. Both HB 213 and HB 214 are requesting appropriations for similar purposes offered through the CESDP.

This request was submitted by NMHU to HED for review. HB 214 represents an increase of \$249,800 to the FY 09 recurring General Fund appropriation of \$250,200. HED is neutral regarding a recommendation for funding this project for FY 10.

Background:

According to NMHU, HB 214 continues support for the BLLPPI and provides an increase to current year funding. BLLPPI was created to assist in shaping public policy on health care,

nutrition, parent and community engagement, substance abuse, and PreK-20 education. The institute bridges the gap between academic scholarship and policy development through activities such as seminars, focus groups, research projects, service learning projects, leadership camps, program evaluation, and public outreach. Recently, BLLPPI has expanded its mission to focus on helping develop a new generation of emerging leaders.

HED cites major program accomplishments as:

- providing a policy strand for parents and community members at the annual Back to School Institute;
- providing support for NMHU students to attend national and international symposia sponsored by Princeton University and the Alliance to Harness Global Opportunity;
- commissioning research addressing contemporary policy issues affecting New Mexico and potential policy implications, including:
 - enrollment changes in New Mexico rural schools;
 - availability of trained bilingual staff in New Mexico health care facilities;
 - river and watershed water quality studies; and
 - meta-analysis of research about youth intervention strategies;
- conducting leadership development training for key NMHU student groups;
- convening another cohort of Frank Angel Fellows selected from 28 New Mexico school districts to pursue an M.A. in Education in Leadership;
- sponsoring a regional land and water institute that brought together community leaders, practitioners, and high school and university students to address contemporary land and water issues affecting New Mexico; and
- developing and disseminating a youth entrepreneurship curriculum and providing scholarships to the winners of the Governor's Economic Development Summit's Youth Business Plan competition.

Related Bills:

HB 213 *NMHU Technical Assistance Center*
SB 124 *Create School Leadership Institute*