

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 80

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .190707.1

Short Title: UNM Dental Science Program

Sponsor(s): Representatives Miguel P. Garcia and Mimi Stewart

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February1, 2013

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

HB 80 makes an appropriation to the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Health Sciences Center (HSC) to plan a Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Dental Science (BA/DDS) program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$400,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the UNM for FY 14. This is a one-time, nonrecurring appropriation. Any unexpended or unencumbered funds at the end of FY 14 will revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

Dental Programs

According to UNM, the BA/DDS program would help address the dental health professional shortage in New Mexico by providing educational opportunities to students who are most likely to return to New Mexico to practice dentistry. UNM states that students who accept a position in the BA/DDS program would be required to acknowledge a commitment to the program goals.

Undergraduate education would occur at UNM, while doctoral education would occur at contracted schools of dentistry.

Students currently seeking a dental education are able to participate in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Professional Student Exchange Program. The program comprises 12 participating dental schools and allows students to obtain a DDS at reduced levels of tuition.

Dental Professional Shortage

According to UNM:

- New Mexico has 0.6 dentists per 1,000 people, while the national average is 0.8 dentists per 1,000 people;
- the state ranks in the bottom quartile in number of dentists per 1,000 people;

- 904 licensed dentists live in New Mexico, 775 of whom are still active and 49 percent are over the age of 54;
- 70 percent of dentists practice within a four-county area along the Rio Grande Corridor;
- 25 of 33 New Mexico counties are considered Health Professional Shortage Areas; and
- 42 percent of the population resides within a Health Professional Shortage Area.

According to the New Mexico Department of Health:

- the federal government has designated all or part of 32 counties in New Mexico as *Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas*;
- an informal analysis of 1,164 New Mexico third graders found that 26 percent of the students had active tooth decay;
- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 31 percent of Mexican-American children age six to 11 had experienced decay in their permanent teeth, compared with 19 percent of non-Hispanic white children; and
- the report also found that three times as many children age six to 11 from families with incomes below the federal poverty line had untreated tooth decay, compared with children from families with incomes above the poverty line.

Background:

HB 80 relates to previously-enacted legislation – SB 133, *Study UNM Students Directly to Dental School* (2011) – which directed the HSC to conduct a study, including fiscal impact analysis, of the feasibility of establishing a UNM program to allow qualified students to matriculate directly from a Bachelor of Arts degree program to dental school.

The Fiscal Impact Report from 2008 legislation referenced an estimate by the Higher Education Department for establishing a dental school in New Mexico. The department estimated that \$46.0 million would be required for design, planning, physical facilities, and equipment, plus a full annual operating budget of \$10.0 million.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

- SB 56 *UNM Health Center Project ECHO*
- SB 87 *UNM Health Workforce Analysis*
- SB 97 *Expand Health Focus Centers*
- SB 123 *UNM Health Center Autopsy Transport*