

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 318

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191899.1

Short Title: Doña Ana Regional Educational Initiative

Sponsor(s): Representative Mary Helen Garcia

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 5, 2013

Bill Summary:

HB 318 makes an appropriation to implement the Doña Ana County Regional Educational Initiative (DACREI) at the Doña Ana Community College (DACC).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for DACC in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Legislative Finance Committee Fiscal Impact Report, the appropriation contained in HB 318 is a recurring expense to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

The Higher Education Department's (HED) bill analysis states that:

- according to DACC, the appropriation will be used to support the Regional Educational Initiative (REI), also known as the Bridge Program (BP);
- BP is an educational initiative driven by the local business community to develop the area workforce and to support and expand the collaboration between education, business and industry, and economic development in Dona Ana County; and
- funds, if appropriated, will be used to:
 - allow BP to continue building the relationships between educators and the healthcare community for the Early College High School (ECHS) in Las Cruces, as well as a connecting business and education leaders for the new ECHS in Hatch;
 - building a network of resources to develop a better understanding of educational outcomes and the economic impacts of those outcomes; and
 - continue support and sponsoring research on best practices in education, such as:
 - ✓ dual credit;
 - ✓ back-awarding of associate degrees;
 - ✓ removing barriers between institutions that limit student success; and
 - ✓ degree completion; and
 - increase mentoring opportunities between students and the business community.

Background:

HED's bill analysis indicates that REI:

- was a result of a task force commissioned in 2007 to develop solutions and recommendations to prepare Doña Ana graduating high school students to compete in the global workforce;
- has been instrumental in its leadership and guidance of community discussions regarding the preparation of a well-qualified workforce in order to develop a stronger economic future for Doña Ana County; and
- has created collaborations between public and private sectors including businesses, nonprofits, and both secondary and postsecondary educational institutions to support educational excellence and optimize the county's workforce.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

SB 253 *NMSU Manufacturing Sector Development Program*

SB 254 *NMSU Arrowhead Center*