

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HB 434

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .192297.1

**Short Title:** Bernalillo Math & Science Skills Program

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Sheryl Williams Stapleton and Rick S. Miera

**Analyst:** Travis Dulany

**Date:** February 13, 2013

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 434 makes an appropriation for a program to increase basic mathematics and science skills and improve readiness for the transition from high school to postsecondary education for disadvantaged youth in Bernalillo County.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert at the end of FY 14.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to LGD:

- an appropriation such as HB 434 is “not a usual LGD function”; and
- if enacted, the division would enter into a grant agreement with Bernalillo County, and the county would then issue a request for proposals to find providers for the types of services identified in HB 434.

**Substantive Issues:**

HB 434 does not identify which particular disadvantaged youth will benefit from the \$50,000 appropriation.

According to 2010 data obtained by New Mexico Voices for Children:

- 23.9 percent of children (under 18 years of age) in Bernalillo County live in poverty;
- the county with the highest child poverty rate is Luna County, with 48.3 percent; and
- the lowest child poverty rate in New Mexico is in Los Alamos, with 3.2 percent.

In addition, the Children’s Defense Fund reports that there are 153,558 New Mexico children (30 percent) living in poverty; and according to the US Census Bureau, 19 percent of persons in New Mexico lived below the poverty level from 2007 to 2011.

While it is unclear which particular organization will administer the program described in HB 434, several organizations currently provide mathematics and science education to underprivileged and disadvantaged youth. One example of such an organization is New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (NM MESA Inc.), which is a pre-college program that prepares students for college majors and careers in mathematics, engineering, science, or technically related fields. NM MESA Inc. operates throughout the state and has regional offices in Albuquerque.

**Committee Referrals:**

HEC/HAFC

**Related Bills:**

HB 25 *ENMU Robot Workshops*

HB 213 *Minority Math, Engineering & Science Program*

HB 378 *Northern NM Youth Science & Math Program*

HB 435 *Bernalillo Achievement Gap Programs*

SB 150 *ENMU Robot Workshops & Competition*

SB 263 *Bernalillo GED Educational Training*