

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 215

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191678.1

Short Title: ENMU KENW Public Television

Sponsor(s): Senator Stuart Ingle

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 14, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 215 makes an appropriation to sustain current operations at KENW, the public television station at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Technical Issues:

An error on page 1, line 18 of SB 215 incorrectly identifies the public television station at ENMU as KENM. It should be KENW, which is correctly stated in the title of the bill.

Substantive Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), KENW reports that the outdated broadcasting equipment at the station has reached the end of its life cycle and there is no longer manufacturer support for repairs or replacement of encoders and other automated parts. Since the television industry has upgraded to computerized equipment, it is necessary to upgrade the station's equipment in order to prevent disruptions to televised programs. SB 215 covers the costs for new automated equipment, updated encoders, and related equipment.

Background:

HED notes that KENW is a public television broadcast facility owned and operated by ENMU. The mission of KENW is to provide full service public television to the citizens of eastern New Mexico, distribute distance education classes throughout the region, and provide students with hands-on training for careers in broadcasting. KENW serves a unique population and region with informational and educational programming. These services are not duplicated anywhere in the state or region, nor are they in conflict with other broadcasting centers.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 243 *State University Educational Television*