

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HM 97

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .194683.2

Short Title: School for the Deaf Curriculum

Sponsor(s): Representative Antonio “Moe” Maestas

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 18, 2014

Bill Summary:

HM 97 requests that a task force be convened consisting of qualified staff from the Public Education Department and the Higher Education Department, with assistance from the Legislative Education Study Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee, to:

- study the educational needs of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing from:
 - birth through middle school and evaluate the necessity for updating and modernizing the current educational system to cultivate optimal educational fulfillment; and
 - high school through college and evaluate the feasibility of converting to or adding a public postsecondary educational curriculum at the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD);
- evaluate the best ways to use existing facilities, assets, and resources at the NMSD; and
- identify ways to improve and potential resources for amplifying the educational experiences of current and prospective students at the NMSD.

Finally, the task force is requested to study the examples of Gallaudet University and New Mexico Military Institute in order to determine the feasibility of establishing a postsecondary educational institution with similar components and aspects.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Background:

According to the NMSD, the school:

- was opened in 1885, with the New Mexico Legislature establishing the school officially in 1887;
- received its first building in 1891;
- has the distinction of being the only land grant school for the deaf in the country;
- serves deaf and hard-of-hearing children and youth between ages birth to 21;

- offers extensive early childhood services through the school's Albuquerque, Farmington, and Las Cruces satellite campuses; and
- allows enrollment, free of charge, for any child or youth who resides in New Mexico and has a diagnosed hearing loss.

Committee Referrals:

HEC

Related Bills:

SB 5 *Allow Sign Language for Graduation*

SJR 12 *Land Grant Fund Balance & Education, CA*

HB 330 *Diploma Seal of Bilingualism*