

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 123

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195584.1

Short Title: NMSU - Doña Ana CC Dental Hygiene Clinic

Sponsor(s): Senator William P. Soules

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 30, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 123 makes an appropriation to support the Doña Ana Community College (DACC) Dental Hygiene Clinic (DHC).

Fiscal Impact:

\$225,000 is appropriated to the Board of Regents at New Mexico State University (NMSU) from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 15 and subsequent fiscal years. Unexpended or unencumbered funds do not revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was submitted by NMSU to HED for review, however, the Executive did not recommend funding for the project.

Substantive Issues:

According to NMSU, the Commission on Dental Education Accreditation requires that dental hygiene students receive their training under the direct supervision and control of a degree program with a clinical practicum component. If no on-site clinic is provided on site, DACC must contract with a public service agency for use of facilities. Typically, a minimum of 28-30 hours a week of clinical time is needed to provide sufficient practical experience for all students. The existing clinic began operation in 2008 after the Legislature provided funding to initiate the Dental Hygiene Associate Degree Program (DHADP).

Background:

According to NMSU, the DHC is operated at the DACC campus as part of the DHADP. The program prepares students to practice entry-level dental hygiene in private dental offices, hospitals, and public health agencies. The DHADP accepts cohorts of 12 students annually. In addition to meeting the practicum requirement for students in the program the clinic also provides preventative dental hygiene services to the public in the area. The number of patients served in 2012-2013 was approximately 1,200. The cost to operate the clinic is above the state funding formula provided to cover the DHADP cost of instruction.

NMSU also states that the Legislature provided \$375,000 in capital outlay funds in FY 06 to renovate a building space to accommodate the DHP and clinic. Program start-up funds for operations and equipment were provided through FY 09. Supplemental funding from the Legislature ended in FY 10.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 7 *General Appropriation Act of 2014*

HB 95 *NMSU - Doña Ana CC Dental Hygiene Clinic (Identical)*

SB 76 *Dental Therapist Hygienist Act*