

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 261

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .196177.1

Short Title: Northern NM State School Veterans Center

Sponsor(s): Senators Richard C. Martinez and Carlos R. Cisneros

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 15, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 261 makes an appropriation to create a Veterans Center on the Española campus of the Northern New Mexico State School (NNMSS) to assist veterans in the transition from military to civilian and student life.

Fiscal Impact:

\$105,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NNMSS for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was not submitted by the Board of Regents of NNMSS to HED for FY 15 budget review.

Substantive Issues:

HED states that funding in SB 261 would be used for staff training and contracting for services related to veterans' benefits, including counseling on education and health benefits. These services would help veterans returning from recent military campaigns to adjust to life on campus.

Background:

According to HED, both New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico have on-campus programs to assist veterans with higher education goals.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 282 *Northern NM State School Veterans Center* (Duplicate)