

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 267

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .196260.1

Short Title: ENMU Student Support

Sponsor(s): Senator Stuart Ingle

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 6, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 267 makes an appropriation to design and implement a student support program that identifies and provides outreach to high-risk students at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$200,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), ENMU received \$195,500 for this project in FY 14. SB 267 reflects the expansion request for the student support program that was submitted to HED by ENMU for budget review for FY 15. The Executive's budget recommendation does not request an expansion for this project.

HED notes that this project has received General Fund support since FY 08. Funds are used to employ professional staff, teacher aides, and for program administration.

Substantive Issues:

According to ENMU, retention of students is a major goal of all higher education institutions. The identification of high-risk students and the development of personalized intervention programs greatly improve the likelihood that students at risk for failure to finish their degrees will be successful in their academic pursuits. More than half of the freshman students at ENMU require remedial courses in reading, writing, or math. The student success program greatly increases the odds that high-risk students will earn their degrees rather than dropping out.

Background:

According to HED, the program for high-risk students at ENMU is called the ENMU At-Risk Tutoring Project. This program supports supplemental instruction for students who are struggling academically. Although the program offers workshops and counseling for individual students, the project concentrates its efforts on supporting all students in difficult courses through group learning sessions.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 213 *Doña Ana At-Risk Youth Intervention Program*