

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 659

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: 200054.1

Short Title: ENMU SkillsUSA Program

Sponsor(s): Senator George K. Muñoz

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: March 6, 2015

Bill Summary:

SB 659 makes an appropriation to support the SkillsUSA program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$25,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) for expenditure in FY 16 and subsequent fiscal years. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert.

Fiscal Issues:

Although the Higher Education Department (HED) reports that this request was not submitted by the ENMU Board of Regents to HED for review, this appropriation appears to be a flow-through to SkillsUSA, with ENMU serving as the fiscal agent.

According to HED:

- SkillsUSA is one of several career technical student organizations (CTSOs) recognized by the US Department of Education;
- CTSOs are supported by the federal *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*;
- the New Mexico Director of SkillsUSA indicated that these federal funds have been reduced from \$600,000 in 2005 to \$300,000 per year; and
- ENMU has previously served as the fiscal agent for these federal funds; however, New Mexico's Region IX Education Cooperative currently serves as the fiscal agent.

Substantive Issues:

According to SkillsUSA, the national program is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working toward the goal of a skilled workforce. The organization's mission is to empower members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. More than 300,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA each year, and over 11.2 million people have been a part of the organization since its founding in 1965.

According to SkillsUSA:

- supported programs include local, state, and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills;
- at the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championship, nearly 6,000 students compete in 99 occupational and leadership skill areas;
- in addition to promoting community service, supported programs help to establish industry standards for job skills and training in the lab and classroom; and
- the organization is recognized by the US Department of Education and is cited as a “successful model of employer-driven youth development training program” by the US Department of Labor.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 178a *Career Technical Education Courses & Terms*

HB 329 *Vocational Ed Curricula Development*

HB 553 *ENMU SkillsUSA Program (Identical)*

HM 14 *Establish High-Quality Career Pathways*

SB 338 *Career Technical Student Organizations*

SB 496 *Career Tech Education Courses as Electives*