

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SM 61

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .199864.1

Short Title: NM Library Needs Assessment

Sponsor(s): Senator Michael S. Sanchez

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 18, 2015

Bill Summary:

SM 61 requests the State Library to:

- support a needs assessment of New Mexico libraries; and
- assist library organizations to convene a statewide conference to develop and adopt policies to achieve goals for improved library services.

SM 61 further resolves that copies of the memorial be transmitted to the State Librarian and to the President of the New Mexico Library Association.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Fiscal Issues:

The analysis of SM 61 by the New Mexico State Library (NMSL) notes that conducting a needs assessment and convening a statewide conference would have fiscal implications. The analysis adds, "It is within the . . . NMSL mission to assist and support in terms of data for the needs assessment, and NMSL could serve as co-sponsor in terms of support for the statewide conference."

Substantive Issues:

According to the NMSL analysis, SM 61 calls for policymakers "to re-examine the role of libraries and put into place public policies and resources necessary for libraries to properly fulfill the goals of improved quality of life and enhanced economic well-being" of New Mexico residents.

Background:

During the December 2014 interim meeting of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), representatives from the New Mexico Task Force for School Libraries, noted that in 2003 the LESC helped establish the *School Library Materials Fund* (SLMF) and that every two years the LESC has supported General Obligation Bond (GOB) funding for libraries statewide. The representatives also reported that the 2014 GOB approved by New Mexico's voters will

provide \$3.0 million (which translates to approximately \$8.95 per student) to maintain and improve library collections in rapidly changing areas, such as social studies, science, and technology as well as popular titles that encourage a love of reading. To conclude, it was emphasized that if the SLMF was funded in the same amount (\$3.0 million), New Mexico's school libraries would receive an additional \$8.95 per student this year.

Committee Referrals:

SRC/SPAC

Related Bills:

HM 48 *NM Library Needs Assessment* (Identical)