

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SM 12

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202552.1

Short Title: Doña Ana Youth-Centered Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator William P. Soules

Analyst: Kevin Force

Date: January 26, 2016

Bill Summary:

Noting the recent history of a number of successful youth-centered community programs in Doña Ana County, including the role that legislative efforts have had in the establishment of these programs, SM 12 resolves that other counties, municipalities, and Native American governmental entities in New Mexico be encouraged to create public-private community-based efforts to bring adults and youth together to discuss issues important to youth and young adults.

Additionally, copies of the memorial are to be transmitted to the:

- mayors of Hatch, Las Cruces, and Anthony;
- chair of the Doña Ana Board of County Commissioners;
- executive directors of the New Mexico Municipal League and the New Mexico Association of Counties;
- executive head of each Indian nation, tribe, and pueblo in New Mexico;
- Secretary of Public Education; and
- Secretary of Higher Education.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Substantive Issues:

According to the National League of Cities, communities that offer meaningful opportunities for engagement are already enjoying a number of benefits resulting from these programs, including:

- engagement with the next generation of civic leaders;
- youth encouraging friends and peers to also become involved with their communities;
- budget savings and revenue generation;
- increased support for community initiatives;
- improved youth-oriented programs and policies; and
- improved indicators of well-being among young people.

This approach to youth-engagement is referred to as Authentic Youth Civic Engagement (AYCE). Under this framework, young people’s contributions, as they work in partnership with supportive and respectful adults, are seen as valuable to local government, and include four critical elements:

1. “Settings” where youth participation is welcome and valued;
2. “Structures” where the AYCE-participating organization meets the needs of local government and young people;
3. “Strategies” that offer a wide range of activities that provide youth with breadth and depth of meaningful opportunities for civic engagement; and
4. “Support” from adult allies that enables youth to get involved and have an impact in areas of importance to them.

Active youth participation in such opportunities is of benefit both to the young people involved and their communities, and encourages continued involvement as these young people reach adulthood.

Related Bills:

HB 64 *ENMU Statewide Robot Workshops*

*HB 138 *Voting for Some 17 Year-Olds*

SB 24 *Child Behavioral & Developmental Screenings*

SB 39 *Improve Educational Outcomes Project*

SB 107 *CYFD Community Home Donation Tax Credit*