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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB109</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Padilla</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.216535.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Civic Leadership &amp; Legislative Training</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Kennedy</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/3/2020</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/4/2020</u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 109 (SB109) would appropriate \$400 thousand to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to support a civic leadership and legislative process training program for high school students through the division of student affairs.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$400 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of UNM for expenditure in FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The UNM analysis of SB109 states the civic leadership and legislative process initiative will provide opportunities to improve student outcomes including retention, graduation, college matriculation, career exploration, and professional development. The UNM analysis explains the initiative is critical to address “brain drain,” the phenomenon of talented New Mexico students obtaining a college education in the state and then moving elsewhere for work.

SB109 does not establish specific criteria for the civic leadership and legislative process training program. However, analysis from UNM of a nearly-identical bill introduced in the 2019 legislative session describes in detail a plan to implement a year-round program to serve at least 100 high school students that includes a summer residential program, a civic engagement project, and a group visit to the New Mexico state capitol. UNM staff report the appropriation in SB109 will fund the implantation of this plan and the increased appropriation may allow for expansion of the program to serve a greater number of high school students.

The LESC FY21 budget recommendation includes \$3 million to support civics education programs. However, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 did not adopt this recommendation and does not include any funding for civics education.

Analysis from the Higher Education Department (HED) notes UNM circumvented the department's formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests. HED therefore did not include the request in its FY21 budget recommendation.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SB109 would require the division of student affairs to develop a civic leadership and legislative process training program and make the program available to high school students. School districts and charter schools would volunteer to participate in the program.

### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Statutory graduation requirements already require high school students to complete three credits in social science, including one-half credit in government (Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978). The Legislature may want to consider measures to integrate civics leadership and legislative process training into high school government courses.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities reports civic engagement activities are associated with greater learning and increased graduation rates in K-12 public schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions. To be effective, civic engagement must be intentionally integrated into academic curricula.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files
- Higher Education Department (HED)
- University of New Mexico (UNM)

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