

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 459

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: G.E.D. Certificate Educational Training

Sponsor(s): Representative Antonio “Moe” Maestas

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 25, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 459 makes an appropriation to provide educational training in Bernalillo County for persons attempting to attain their General Educational Development (GED) Certificate.

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

The Higher Education Department (HED) recommends that any new funding for GED programs flow through HED.

Issues:

According to HED’s analysis of the identical HB 459, the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Division at HED oversees GED programs around New Mexico that help people transition to college, enter the workforce, and assist their children to be successful in school. ABE programs serve people 16 years and older whose skills are below a 12th grade equivalent.

The ABE Division currently oversees five ABE programs offering GED services in Bernalillo County:

- Central New Mexico Community College;
- Catholic Charities;
- Ser de New Mexico;
- Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute; and
- University of New Mexico-Los Alamos.

These programs are accountable to HED which has instituted a new state-of-the-art database, state-level policies, and fiscal procedures. A statewide professional development plan has been approved by the US Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) and is being implemented by the New Mexico Adult Education Association.

HED recommends that all GED programs not administered by public schools be monitored by and receive oversight from HED, ABE Division. Being part of the existing statewide ABE system would assure quality control and accountability for GED services offered.

According to the Legislative Finance Committee, ABE programs currently serve only 5.0 percent of the eligible population for GED programs. Many ABE programs have up to 500 individuals waiting for services with 45 percent of applicants waiting four to eight months for training.

Related Bill:

SB 311 *G.E.D. Certificate Educational Training* (identical)