

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 383

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .192078.1

**Short Title:** Workforce Development & Dropout Prevention

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Nancy Rodriguez

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 17, 2013

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 383 makes an appropriation to contract with a New Mexico company or organization that has demonstrated experience and success in implementing workforce development and dropout prevention programs in partnership with school districts to:

- enhance academic remediation services for at-risk students;
- implement dropout prevention strategies; and
- provide students with career exploration and employable skills training.

Strategies shall align with enrollment in postsecondary education programs or career pathway opportunities leading to entry-level positions with business partners.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Workforce Solutions Department (WSD) for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

The Public Education Department (PED) notes in its analysis that SB 383 permits school district personnel to refer high-risk students for participation in the program and allow them to be served based on their determined at-risk status alone without regard to economic status.

According to WSD, the department currently provides these services through its administration of the *Workforce Investment Act* (WIA) programs. SB 383 specifies that a contractor would provide the services outlined.

**Background:**

According to PED:

- one high school student drops out of secondary schools every nine seconds; and
- the rate at which students drop out between grades 9 and 10 has tripled over the last 30 years; and
- the national dropout rate in school year 2010-2011 was 7.4 percent.

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

HB 11 *General Appropriation Act of 2013*