



## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SB183 might violate the state's constitutional anti-donation clause forbidding state appropriations to non-state entities, except under certain exceptions. While the bill appropriates the money to PED, the specificity of the intended recipient might be a violation of the clause or of the State Procurement Code

According to JAG-NM, SB183 would be the first direct allocation of state funds to their program and would enable the program to maintain its existing operations and expand from the four schools it serves now to another five to seven schools. JAG-NM currently receives limited support from the national organization and raises funds to support itself.

PED formerly supported JAG-NM with federal funds through the Carl D. Perkins Career Technical Education Act but stopped allocating those funds because JAG does not qualify as a nationally recognized career technical student organization. Although JAG reports it has an agreement with PED to receive \$100 thousand from a \$2 million nonrecurring general fund appropriation for a career technical education pilot, it says it has received no funds.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Jobs for America's Graduates, a national organization, operates in New Mexico as a dropout prevention program. According to its website, the program is offered as an elective class for selected ninth-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and teaches skills needed to succeed in school and jobs. It is available in Bernalillo High School, Independence High School in Rio Rancho, and Rio Grande High and Robert F. Kennedy Charter School in Albuquerque.

From the website (<https://missiongraduatenm.org/bright-spots/jobs-americas-graduates-new-mexico/jun-1-2016>):

One year after the expected graduation date for the class of 2015, 90 percent of the JAG-NM students in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties had graduated from high school; 64 percent were employed; 34 percent were enrolled in postsecondary education; and 75 percent were either employed and/or in postsecondary education.

The statewide graduation rate in FY18 was 74 percent.

JAG-NM, which has operated in New Mexico for 16 years, served 194 public school students during the 2018-2019 school year, with about half of those Native American, a third Hispanic, and 90 percent eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

New Mexico's four-year dropout rate has declined from 29 percent in 2015 to 13 percent in 2018.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Programs like JAG-NM and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination in place in 13 school districts) can reduce dropout rates and improve graduation rates.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

HB63 would appropriate \$4 million to the University of New Mexico to develop an online soft-skills education program for middle and high school students.

HB298 and SB156 would appropriate \$4.5 million to PED to contract with an organization to provide evidence-based kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade college and career readiness system.

Although not specifically a career technical education program, JAG-NM has received career and technical education funding in the past. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2&3 contains a \$3 million recurring special program appropriation and a \$2 million nonrecurring appropriation from the public education reform fund for PED for career and technical education.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

SB183 might violate the State Procurement Code or the anti-donation clause in the state constitution.

HFG/sb/al