

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 24

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: NMSU Public School Hospitality Initiative

Sponsor(s): Senators Mary Kay Papen and Cynthia Nava

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

Date: January 22, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 24 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for FY 09 to implement a statewide hospitality and tourism education initiative in public schools throughout the state.

Fiscal Impact:

\$250,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

The Legislative Finance Committee notes that funding for this initiative was not included in the Higher Education Department's (HED's) recommendations for FY 09.

Issues:

According to the NMSU analysis of SB 24, the appropriation would fund the ProStart program, the purpose of which is to teach high school students culinary and foodservice management skills through classroom learning and work experience. The analysis also says that:

- In New Mexico, 43 high schools have purchased the ProStart curriculum, and 28 schools in 20 districts actively participate in the program, involving over 1,200 students.
- Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that, from 2007 to 2017, the number of restaurant and foodservice jobs will increase by approximately two million, including 47,000 management positions; however, young people are unaware of potential careers in these fields.
- The ProStart program was developed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and in New Mexico is administered by the Hospitality Industry Education Foundation, which provides professional development for ProStart teachers.

During the 2006 interim, the LESC heard a presentation on the hospitality and tourism education initiative. The presentation explained that Prostart prepares high school students for higher education and careers in industry through two-year, industry-based curriculum. In the presentation, several students said that they had gained valuable industry experience by participating in ProStart.

The presentation also included that, in 2006, over 160 students representing 12 high schools participated in the annual New Mexico ProStart Competition and that teams from two New Mexico high schools advanced to the National ProStart Student Invitational that year. The LESC also heard testimony from HED, which has developed a five-year plan to match new postsecondary programs with the career clusters, including hospitality and tourism.

The Public Education Department analysis of SB 24 says that the ProStart program strengthens the hospitality and tourism career cluster, which provides focused programs of study and industry experience and allows students to earn professional certifications.

HED's analysis of SB 24 notes that this bill may have a positive impact on the implementation of dual credit, and that, if the program is funded, HED will work with NMSU to develop performance measures for the program.

Related Bills:

None