

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 286

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: High School Science & Math College Prep

Sponsor(s): Senator Pete Campos

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

Date: January 25, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 286 appropriates funds to the Higher Education Department (HED) for Luna Community College to fund a technical preparatory summer program that teaches mathematics, science, and technology skills to high school students from Robertson High School, West Las Vegas High School, Santa Rosa High School, Springer High School, Maxwell High School, Mora High School, and Wagon Mound High School.

Fiscal Impact:

\$40,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

The analysis by HED notes that this program was not included in HED's FY 09 funding recommendations.

Issues:

According to HED's analysis, the funding provided in SB 286 would allow Luna Community College to offer early admission college courses to high school students, particularly for minority and female students interested in technical careers. Also according to HED:

- all courses offered through the program align with postsecondary curriculum and carry college credit;
- students will attend college preparatory seminars, financial aid counseling, and field trips to the national laboratories and Intel; and
- the program will include parental involvement.

HED's analysis also notes that Luna Community College does not have arrangements to allow students to earn dual credit in the program funded by SB 286, and that dual credit is not currently allowed to be earned during the summer semesters (see "Background" below for a summary of dual credit). LESC-endorsed legislation introduced during the 2008 Legislature (SB 31, noted below) would extend eligibility for the dual credit program to students at state-supported schools and allow students to take dual credit courses during the summer semester.

The Public Education Department (PED) analysis of SB 286 notes that student academic performance in five of the schools (Maxwell High, Mora High, Robertson High, Wagon Mound High, and West Las Vegas High) indicates a need for a summer mathematics and science college preparatory program:

- in school year 2006-2007, only 25 percent of the students scored at the proficient or advanced level on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment in both grades 9 and 11;
- only 2.0 percent were advanced in grade 9 and only 3.0 percent in grade 11; and
- of 187 students who were reported as going on to college in New Mexico in 2006, 47 percent had to take at least one remedial course.

Background:

- LESC-endorsed legislation enacted in 2007 provides a dual credit program that allows high school students to enroll in college classes and earn credit toward high school graduation and a postsecondary degree or certificate simultaneously.
- During the 2007 interim, the LESC heard two progress reports on the implementation of the committee-endorsed legislation enacted in 2007. During the first of the two reports, the LESC identified two issues in the legislation that needed to be addressed, which led to the LESC's endorsement of SB 31, noted below.
- During the 2007 interim, the LESC heard a presentation on mathematics and science education in New Mexico. The presentation noted that, although student achievement in mathematics and science has improved, achievement gaps between white and minority students have remained steady or widened.

Related Bills:

SB 31 *Expand Schools in Dual Credit Program*
SB 156 *NMSU Science, Engineering & Math Academy*
HB 149 *Minority Student Math & Science Skills*