

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 43a

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .183743.1

Short Title: Develop Diploma Stamps System

Sponsor(s): Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton and Senator Timothy M. Keller

Analyst: Ally Hudson

Date: March 8, 2011 (revised)

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AS AMENDED

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee amendment changes the bill to:

- **allow school districts, rather than require the Public Education Department, to develop and adopt a voluntary system for awarding “diploma stamps” to be applied to the graduation diplomas of students who have excelled in the completion of career-technical education courses specified in rule.**

Original Bill Summary:

HB 43 amends the graduation requirements in the *Public School Code* to require that, by the beginning of school year 2012-2013, the Public Education Department (PED) develop and adopt a voluntary system to allow school districts to award “diploma stamps” on diplomas of students who excelled in specified career technical education courses.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 43 does not contain an appropriation.

Revised Fiscal Issues:

As a result of the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee amendments, HB 43 should not have any fiscal impact on PED.

Original Fiscal Issues:

According to the PED analysis:

- there is no state-funded full-time equivalent (FTE) position within the department to administer, develop, and oversee a state-mandated program;
- as a result, PED would need to hire additional FTE at an annual cost for salary and benefits of \$68,952;
- New Mexico derives supplemental funding from the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006*; and

- federal grant cost principles direct that these federal funds be used to supplement career-technical education (CTE), but may not be used to supplant.

Substantive Issues:

The analysis by PED also states that:

- HB 43 may establish an unintended requirement that the state develop and approve CTE coursework outside the process that is outlined in current rule. Rule provides that CTE programs for secondary and postsecondary levels must be in accordance with current state law and the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006* (a.k.a. the *Perkins Act*).
- The act also requires the state to prepare a five-year state plan for approval by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. New Mexico's current plan is approved through grant year 2013. Additionally, "federal statute requires that Perkins program administration include assistance for activities that may be adopted by local educational agencies and postsecondary institutions as an option to students...The credential/certification does not dictate the curriculum [and] industry recognized credentials and/or certifications are only required if they are available and appropriate for a particular pathway."
- Requiring the department to establish a system to award diploma stamps outside the parameters of current rule could establish a narrow, separate track for state-approved CTE coursework that would compete with New Mexico's process for supporting nationally recognized CTE coursework.

In correspondence with the LESC, an Education Commission of the States (ECS) representative indicated that:

- the term "diploma stamps" is not being used by other states, and that "most states require – rather than make optional – the awarding of an advanced diploma to CTE students who meet additional criteria;"
- rather than excelling in CTE courses to earn an endorsement or special diploma, most states require students to complete a specific sequence in CTE or additional courses; and
- the rationale behind awarding advanced diplomas to CTE students is "[providing] motivation for students to work hard in CTE sequences, [and] recognize students who make a special effort."

Related Bills:

None as of March 8, 2011.