

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 109

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Private Sector Employment for Students

Sponsor(s): Senator James G. Taylor

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 21, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 109 makes an appropriation to establish a two-year pilot program at Nuestros Valores Charter School to assess students' workplace skills and to facilitate the placement of students into private sector employment.

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause at the end of FY 10.

Issues:

According to PED, workplace skills testing is a current and well-known feature of career-technical education practice that allows students and schools to determine student readiness to enter employment and identifies areas of needed development. The results of workplace skills testing are generally used to develop programs and methods that would allow students to acquire and improve their skills before entering or applying for employment.

According to the mission statement of the Nuestros Valores Charter School, they provide a quality, innovative, and relevant education for youth who have struggled to succeed in a traditional educational setting through interdisciplinary and career-based curricula.

Current statute requires PED to establish a readiness assessment system to measure the readiness of every New Mexico high school student for success in higher education or a career no later than school year 2008-2009. The readiness system must include a workplace readiness assessment to assess applied skills in reading, mathematics and locating information in grade 11.

Related Bill:

HB 139 *Taos County At-Risk Youth Education Programs*