

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: *SB 186

50th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2012

Tracking Number: .188733.1

Short Title: ENMU Career Technical Student Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Pete Campos

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 29, 2012

Bill Summary:

SB 186 makes an appropriation to support career and technical student programs that provide technical and leadership skills and targeted information to help students succeed in higher education or in the work force after graduation from high school.

*SB 186 contains an emergency clause.

Fiscal Impact:

\$800,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) for expenditure in FY 12 and FY 13. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 13.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was not submitted by ENMU to HED for review. HED has established a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions. This process requires prior approval by the governing body of a university or college. It also provides for analysis of each request by HED, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the Legislative Finance Committee. HED recommends that requests that circumvent the formal review process not receive funding in the annual budget but be resubmitted for funding in FY 14.

Substantive Issues:

According to HED, many students require developmental and/or remedial education classes in order to matriculate into a career-technical program, adding significant time and cost to their education. Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) programs address this issue by delivering basic skills instruction simultaneously with career-technical instruction. HED's Adult Basic Education Division is currently coordinating I-BEST pilot programs at six higher education institutions throughout New Mexico.

HED notes in its analysis of SB 186 that language in the bill refers to "Career Technical Student Programs," but the term "Career Technical Student Organization" (CTSO) is more commonly used and serves to differentiate between student organizations and career-technical programs of study.

State higher education institutions or other entities may already support the CTSOs in their respective service areas.

HED also reports that, according to ENMU staff, the appropriation in SB 186 may be intended as flow-through funds to support career-technical student organizations such as SkillsUSA, with ENMU serving as the fiscal agent. However, the bill does not specify any particular CTSO or the types of activities to be supported by the legislation.

Background:

HED’s analysis of SB 186 states that Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are planned course sequences of academic core content and technical skills, which focus on a specific career cluster and prepare students to transition toward their career goals. CTE programs typically are one- or two-year postsecondary programs culminating in a career readiness certificate, associate degree, or other industry recognized credential.

HED also notes that CTSOs are vocational organizations primarily based in high schools and career technology centers at higher education institutions. Many institutions sponsor CTSO activities in order to support college transitions and enhance the college experience. The following CTSOs are recognized by the US Department of Education and are active in New Mexico:

- Business Professionals of America;
- DECA, formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America;
- National FFA Organization, formerly Future Farmers of America;
- SkillsUSA, formerly Vocational Industrial Clubs of America;
- Technology Student Association; and
- Health Occupations Students of America.

Related Bills:

*HB 8 *Development Training Programs*

HB 81 *ENMU Statewide Career Technical Programs (Identical)*