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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number	<u>SB483</u>	Sponsor	<u>Lopez</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.213181.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SPAC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>State Internship Programs</u>		
Analyst	<u>Force</u>	Original Date	<u>2/25/19</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 483 (SB483) would appropriate \$750 thousand from the general fund to the State Personnel Office (SPO) for use in FY20 to establish internship programs within a number of executive agencies, including the Department of Health (DOH), the Cultural Affairs Department (DCA), the Tourism Department (NMTD), and the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for high school and postsecondary students. Any remaining balance shall revert to the general fund at the end of the FY20.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB483 appropriates \$750 thousand from the general fund to SPO for the establishment of internship programs, with unencumbered balances reverting at the end of the fiscal year.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Practicum-oriented and applied training and education programs, such as work-based learning, lab work, internships, and other programs focused on career and technical education (CTE) are an important component of the educational systems of high-performing countries, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures' report, *No Time to Lose*. These programs have the potential to enhance local economies, and may lead students and recent graduates to better employment opportunities, while also improving students' academic abilities and employability skills.

DOH notes its Public Health Division mentored more than 150 student interns during 2018 and currently maintains 43 academic agreements with postsecondary institutions throughout the state and in other states. The agency has also supported internships in other divisions and offices within the department, including the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Policy and Accountability, and the Epidemiology and Response Division.

DoIT estimates the department could support at least five internships per year in department divisions, including Administrative Services, Enterprise Services, Oversight and Compliance, Statewide Human Resources Accounting Reporting (SHARE), and Public Safety. The proposed internships would be a good way to introduce students to state government employment opportunities and enhance state recruitment efforts. In the past, DoIT has sponsored four interns who went on to become full-time employees.

The NMTD notes improved career outcomes for students who participate in internships, and indicates it provides opportunities for student interns with the potential to enhance a number of interrelated skills, such as marketing, research, design, hospitality, public relations, and finance.

DCA indicates, as a result of successful partnership with New Mexico Highlands University, it has placed recent graduates in paid internships throughout the state's cultural institutions, and expects to see immediate benefits from the opportunity presented by SB483 to expand their internship program. However, DCA also notes the bill lacks language directing how funds should be expended, and further notes the lack of language indicating a recurring appropriation may hinder the program's success.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

All the listed agencies may have to develop or amend policies, procedures, or rules for addressing and implementing internship programs.

RELATED BILLS

HB91, Career Technical Education Pilot Project, would establish a seven-year pilot program for the administration of CTE programs in local school districts and charter schools.

HB183, Apprenticeship Program for Graduation, would require the Public Education Department (PED) to establish procedures by which students would receive credit towards high school graduation for completion of work-based training and apprenticeship-related instruction under a registered apprenticeship program.

HB318, Workforce Soft Skills Program for Students, would appropriate \$4.35 million to PED to develop and purchase or implement a comprehensive, standards-based online learning program to teach middle and high school students workplace soft skills, such as critical thinking and managing interpersonal relationships.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC files
- Cultural Affairs Department (DCA)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Department of Information Technology (DoIT)
- Tourism Department (NMTD)

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