

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB337 appropriates \$750 thousand from the general fund to PED to contract with an organization to provide project-based programs that support academic achievement and college and career readiness. The appropriation is to be expended in fiscal years 2022 through 2024 and any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2024 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Martinez/Yazzie Lawsuit. In the Martinez/Yazzie lawsuit, the court ruled the state is failing to meet its obligation to provide every student with the opportunity to receive an education that adequately prepares them for college and career, citing low graduation rates, insufficient proficiency in reading and math, and high rates of college remediation.

Current Efforts. During the 2019 legislative session, House Bill 91 and House Bill 44 enacted Sections 22-1-12 and 22-1-13 NMSA 1978, establishing the Next Gen Career Technical Education (CTE) pilot program and created a CTE fund. The Next Gen CTE pilot authorizes PED to make grants to school districts and charter schools to establish CTE programs or provide professional development and training to CTE teachers. HB91 also includes criteria for effective CTE programs, including rigorous academics, relevant technical instruction, and pathways to postsecondary education. It does not include opportunities for work-based learning or student supports.

In FY20, New Mexico received approximately \$9.3 million in federal funding under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and another \$4.5 million in state funding as part of the Next Gen CTE pilot. PED has previously noted the department has a comprehensive strategic plan for college and career readiness that includes a strengthened focus on CTE. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) recommendation includes \$2 million for the career technical education fund from the public education reform fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB337 requires PED work with representatives from school districts and with the New Mexico Alliance for College and Career Readiness to develop the request for proposals and the distribution of funds. In accordance with the Procurement Code, PED will be required to award the appropriation through a competitive sealed bid process.

In their analysis of the bill, PED notes the administrative requirements are feasible for the development of the application (request for proposals) process, but not in distribution of funds. PED also notes that SB337 does not address how the department would oversee the program, and does not specify any performance metrics or outcomes. The department would need staff to monitor funds and coordinate the program. Additionally, the department would need to establish the framework for the funding stream, and the department would need to evaluate program effectiveness.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB100, College & Career Readiness Systems, which would appropriate \$3 million to

PED to contract with organizations to provide evidence-based college and career readiness systems.

Relates to SB107, Career Readiness Systems Statewide, which was tabled in the Senate Education Committee.

Relates to HB87, Yazzie Lawsuit Higher Ed Funding, which makes an appropriation to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the court's rulings in the Martinez and Yazzie consolidated lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain public school and higher education students and families.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB337 does not address how PED would oversee the program, and does not specify any performance metrics or outcomes.

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