

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 166

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195747.2

Short Title: Albuquerque School Black Student Union

Sponsor(s): Representative Sheryl M. Williams Stapleton and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 14, 2014 (Revised)

Bill Summary:

HB 166 makes an appropriation to fund the Black Student Union (BSU) program in the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

Fiscal Impact:

\$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department for expenditure in FY 15 to fund the BSU program in APS. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

From the information available, it is not clear how the appropriation would be used to benefit the BSU program.

Background:

A February 19, 2013 story on the APS website noted that when news broke that the graduation rate for African-American students at APS improved by more than 7.0 percent in 2012, sponsors of the BSU felt that they had played a role.

According to APS, the BSU promotes:

- education;
- culture;
- community;
- mentorships;
- college readiness; and
- service learning projects.

At Highland High School, for example, a diverse group of approximately 40 students meets weekly to discuss issues facing students such as grades, graduation, and social responsibility. They monitor grades and find tutors, mentors, or other ways to help students in need.

The BSU advisors also serve as role models for their students. At Albuquerque High, for example, the sponsor is one of only two African-American teachers at the school. The faculty member gets to know the black students by talking through the issues of most importance to them in their lives.

APS high schools that have BSUs are:

- Albuquerque High School;
- Atrisco Heritage Academy;
- Cibola High School;
- Del Norte High School;
- Eldorado High School;
- Highland High School;
- La Cueva High School;
- Manzano High School;
- Rio Grande High School;
- Sandia High School;
- Volcano Vista High School; and
- West Mesa High School.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 245 *African American Science & Math Bridge Pgm*