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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodriguez ORIGINAL DATE _____
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe Community College Auto Program SB 196

ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC)

Responses Not Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB 196 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Higher Education Department for the purpose of funding an automotive program designed to educate as many as 120 students per year conversant with automobile repair using the most up-to-date technology at Santa Fe Community College.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2017) shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SFCC makes the important point that the education of automotive technicians requires their becoming aware of many aspects of physics, mathematics, and other sciences in the process of knowing how to use these sciences to repair automobiles. Whether these students remain in automotive technology or decide to go into other fields, their exposure to these fields will be important to them and to their society. It is to be noted that there is concern nationwide about the paucity of students entering the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and that this program might serve to increase exposure to these subjects.

SFCC states “As the automobile continues to evolve, the industry and the workforce are required to continue to evolve, and regional employers have consistently and fervently expressed the need for an automotive technician training program. Working with regional employers, the automotive program advisory committee, and national accreditation entities, SFCC offers the highest level of quality and professional endorsement for the entry and continuing professional. SFCC can offer an automotive technology program affordably to north central New Mexico.”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In 2014, the only automotive technology program in north central New Mexico, at Northern New Mexico College, was discontinued.

ALTERNATIVES

Students from north central New Mexico wishing to study automotive technology could attend school in another area, farther from home, in Roswell, Farmington, Deming, Albuquerque, Grants, Gallup or Carlsbad, or to attend a private proprietary program, at higher expense.

LAC/jle/jo