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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020

Bill Number	<u>HB298</u>	Sponsor	<u>Barrone/Sariñana/Martinez, Ru./ Stapleton/Chandler</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.216881.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/H AFC</u>
Short Title	<u>College and Career Readiness Systems</u>		
Analyst	<u>Kennedy</u>	Original Date	<u>2/3/2020</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/6/2020</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 298 (HB298) would appropriate \$4.5 million to the Public Education Department (PED) to contract with an organization to provide evidence-based kindergarten through 12th grade college and career readiness systems to address long-term economic development in New Mexico. HB298 would require the college and career readiness systems to have a long history of successfully serving low-income, Hispanic, Native American, and other generationally underserved students.

To be eligible for funds, HB298 would require an organization provide college and career readiness programs that contain comprehensive kindergarten through 12th grade professional learning around leadership, instruction, culture, and systems, align its activities under the data, accountability, sustainability and high achievement system currently in place under PED, and provide powerful teaching and learning strategies that support all content areas and can impact students on a school-wide and statewide basis.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$4.5 million from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY21 through FY23. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The National Center for College and Career states college and career pathways should include a rigorous blend of career technical and traditional academic instruction, real-world technical skills, opportunities for work-based learning, and personalized student supports. College and career pathways encompass many programs commonly referred to as career and technical education (CTE). New Mexico students have access to several college and career readiness programs including Mission: Graduate, offered by United Way of Central New Mexico, and various dual-

credit, college preparation, and CTE programs offered through public schools and public postsecondary institutions. The language in HB298 closely resembles language in promotional materials from the nonprofit organization Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), which provides professional development to educators with the goal of improving student college and career readiness. During the 2017-2018 school year, 13 New Mexico school districts implemented the AVID program.

New Mexico has a responsibility to improve the college and career readiness of its students, particularly at-risk students. The 1st Judicial District Court found in the *Martinez and Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit the state has not upheld its constitutional obligation to ensure at-risk students have the opportunity to obtain an education that prepares them for college and career. The National Conference of State Legislatures' report, *No Time to Lose*, notes countries with high-performing education systems, such as Singapore and Switzerland, have well-funded college and career pathways that are aligned to local workforce needs.

College and career pathways are an evidence-based strategy for improving student performance. Several studies have found participation in college and career pathways has a positive effect on GPA, graduation, postsecondary enrollment, acquisition of industry-recognized credentials, and other outcomes. Moreover, tailoring college and career programs to local industry needs can help address existing and future workforce gaps. Stakeholders in New Mexico report difficulty finding qualified local candidates to fill high-demand positions.

College and career readiness initiatives have become a focus of state lawmakers. The Legislature enacted three bills related to college and career pathways in the 2019 legislative session. Laws 2019, Chapter 61 (House Bill 91) establishes a CTE pilot project and creates a corresponding fund, Laws 2019, Chapter 2 (House Bill 44) directs PED to provide professional development for CTE instructors, and Laws 2019, Chapter 148 (House Bill 664) allows students to substitute a relevant CTE course for a required credit in mathematics, English, or science. However, these programs primarily serve high school students.

The General Appropriation Act of 2019 included a \$3 million recurring appropriation and a \$2 million nonrecurring appropriation for college and career pathways. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 maintains funding at these levels.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB298 requires PED to work with representatives of school districts to develop an application process and award methodology in accordance with the Procurement Code. PED will need to award the appropriation through a competitive sealed bid process.

Analysis from PED notes the department may not partner with the New Mexico Alliance for College and Career Readiness for the purpose of developing an award methodology, but may do so to develop a program application.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to HB63, Soft Skill Education Funding, which appropriates \$4 million to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico to develop a soft skills learning program for middle and high school students.

Relates to HB136, American Indian Student College Readiness PGM, which directs the Higher Education Department (HED) to establish an American Indian college readiness program and appropriates \$650 thousand to HED for that purpose.

Relates to HJM2 and SJM10, Career Technical Education Task Force, which request the creation of a career technical education task force to develop recommendations for sustainable funding of career technical education programs and provide a report to the Legislature.

Duplicate of SB156, College & Career Readiness Systems Funding.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)

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