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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Chávez/Jaramillo/Roybal Caballero/ Ferrary/De La Cruz
LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 3/7/23
SHORT TITLE Abq Westside Animal Shelter Internship
BILL NUMBER House Bill 178
ANALYST Helms

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$350.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact			

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)
 Board of Veterinary Medicine (VMB)
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 178

House Bill 178 (HB178) appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of funding both a paid high school internship program at the Westside Animal Shelter in Albuquerque and for studying the feasibility of creating a statewide internship program for high school students.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the general fund.

The bill does not specify but implies the Public Education Department would be tasked with the feasibility study. Likely, this study can be absorbed by existing staff and resources at the Public Education Department.

If students earned roughly \$6,000 from the paid internship (15 to 20 hours per week for up to six months, being paid \$20 per hour), 58 students could participate. If internships were shorter (three to four months), or if the hourly rate was lower, this would increase the number of students able to participate to up to 120 to 150 students.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

It is unclear if an internship at the animal shelter will allow for emphasis beyond animal care (business practices and financial management at an animal shelter, fundraising and grant-writing efforts, or other generalizable skills) or otherwise be focused on integration to graduation requirements or college and career readiness in high-need fields.

The Public Education Department notes in its analysis and its *2022 Comprehensive Strategic Plan* that paid internship programs have potential to increase students' successful completion of high school. Paid internships can provide research-based, relevant, applied, and experiential learning opportunities to support a wider variety of students in becoming college-and-career ready. PED's analysis does not speak directly to the feasibility study component, and HB178 is unclear what components would be required within a feasibility study.

The opportunity for a paid internship as provided in HB178 would be limited to students in the Albuquerque area because the Westside Animal Shelter is in Albuquerque. It would also be limited to students interested in this specific internship. It is unclear how many interns the shelter can take on at once, and if the shelter is prepared for a high volume of interns over two years, including coordination with districts and PED and preparing supervision for interns.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED analysis notes PED would look at participation and graduation rates as indicators of successful experiential learning initiatives and would seek to align such initiatives with credit accumulation, appropriate course taking patterns, course development, and graduation requirements.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would be tasked with designing the program and providing funding.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

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Relates to Senate Bill 211 (SB211), which would appropriate \$1.2 million from the general fund to a new career development success fund administered by PED to support a three-year Career Development Success pilot program beginning in FY24.

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