

LFC Requester:	Conner Jorgensen
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared 2/21/25 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB0528 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Cristina Parajon and Anita Gonzales
Agency Name and Code Dept. of Workforce Solutions-631
Person Writing Analysis: Sarita Nair
Short Title: High School Internship Grant Program
Phone: 505-263-3187 : **Email** Evan.Sanchez@dws.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
10,000.0	0	NR	GF

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
0	0	0		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected

Total	0	0	0	0		
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(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 528 would establish the high school internship grant program fund as a non-reverting fund and would appropriate \$10 million to that fund. The bill would also establish a program within WSD to fund internship programs and to match employers with interns.

WSD has been working with the Public Education Department and Higher Education Department to bring more consistency to work-based learning programs in the state. This bill would make a significant stride toward that goal by requiring internship programs to be approved. HB 528 would also enhance coordination between employers and internship programs and create a defined process for employers to match state funds for internships.

Given the high poverty levels in our state, paid work-based learning programs are necessary to make these opportunities truly accessible to all. A well-defined path for employers to match state funds will expand the reach of state investments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 528 would invest significant non-recurring money in the new high school internship grant program fund, which would enable rapid scaling of high school internship programs. Because it aims to fund administrative costs, there would be no fiscal implications to WSD beyond the funded activities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill contains a number of unintended technical gaps between what WSD understands the bill wants to accomplish and the current wording (see below). WSD intends to continue to work with the sponsors to address these issues.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would enhance the performance of work-based learning programs by enabling better and more consistent tracking of participant information and outcomes through the WSD system.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would require additional personnel to administer the program and fund, which would be covered by the fund. WSD could also leverage its existing work-based learning coordinator staff position, which PED shares, to ensure strong coordination with CTE programs and PED-based internship programs.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None known.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The technical issues being discussed with the sponsor are:

- Clearer definitions of “internship program”
- Adding a term “host organization” so as not to create confusion with the term “employer,” since the employer of record in an internship program may be the internship program or another entity, and the intern may receive a stipend rather than wages.
- Clearer outlining of the processes for becoming a qualified internship program and qualified host organization
- Additional details on the funding mechanism, including clarification that qualified internship programs may apply for funding for administrative costs.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Efforts to align and standardize work-based learning opportunities will continue to proceed slowly.

AMENDMENTS