

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Beffort DATE TYPED 3/8/2005 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Workplace Readiness Certification Study SB SJM 60

ANALYST Dunbar

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			Minimal		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Office of Workforce Training and Development (OWTD)

NM Public Education Department (NMPED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 60 requests that the State Workforce Development Board appoint a task force comprised of representatives of the state's workforce support agencies, the Regional Workforce Development Board, public school and higher education workforce training providers and the state's business community. The task force, working through the governor's office of workforce training and development, would study the feasibility of establishing a workplace readiness certification program in the public schools, One-stop Centers and community colleges. The task force would review similar programs in other states, assessment instruments and funding requirements, and submit the study to key employer groups, training providers and workforce agencies to solicit recommendations. The final report would be submitted to the appropriate interim legislative committee by November 1, 2005.

#### Significant Issues

The Public Education Department (PED) has developed and made available Career Readiness Standards with Benchmarks for use in the public schools. These standards are intended to be incorporated into public school programs in order to insure that students graduate with the needed

job preparedness skills required by employers. As with all standards with benchmarks, it is expected that school curricula will be aligned with these standards.

The Kentucky Department of Education administers the Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment (KOSSA) in 18 occupational areas based on a set of standards that were developed in concert with, and endorsed by, Kentucky employers. The assessment contains both multiple-choice questions and scenarios focusing on the occupational area of the student's career major. Students must receive a 70% score on each component in order to receive certification. Although the assessment is voluntary for individual students, career-technical education programs receiving funding from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act must participate in the assessment program to be recognized as a valid program to receive that funding. The student receives a certification upon successful completion of the assessment.

The Louisiana Department of Education offers 21 industry-based certifications that serve as tangible evidence that an individual has successfully demonstrated skill competencies in a specific set of work-related tasks, single occupational area or cluster of related occupational areas.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The successful implementation of a workforce readiness certification program in the public schools in the future may require funding to develop and/or purchase an assessment instrument and to administer the assessment.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

Reference to the director of the state workforce development board should be changed to read chairperson.

**BD/yr**