

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: *SB 136

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: Parent Involvement & School Readiness Program

Sponsor(s): Senators Mary Jane M. Garcia and Cynthia Nava

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 24, 2007

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

SB 136 appropriates funds to the Public Education Department (PED) to fund a parent involvement and school readiness pilot program for families of children from birth to age three.

* This bill contains an emergency clause.

Fiscal Impact:

\$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. SB 136 contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

The program funded in SB 136 is intended to teach parents to be active in their children's early education to prepare them for success in school and life, focusing on academics and aiming to stem problems such as child abuse and teen pregnancy. The program is also intended to emphasize adult literacy education and community resource awareness to help parents and families become economically self-sufficient. The appropriation in SB 136 will enable 150 families, including 225 children to participate in the nine-month program.

Testimony before the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) during the 2006 interim included comments from representatives from Doña Ana County who identified the AVANCE program as a parental involvement and school readiness program. The Committee heard testimony that AVANCE serves economically disadvantaged Hispanic families that have the lowest levels of adult literacy in Chaparral, Anthony, and Sunland Park, and that the program will utilize resources and staff from the El Paso AVANCE program to maximize local assets.

Further testimony before the LESC stated that the AVANCE program includes:

- parenting education that teaches parents to be the primary teacher and full partners in their child's education;
- early childhood education to prepare children for success in school and life;
- adult literacy education that leads to economic self-sufficiency;
- community resource awareness so that parents are able to help themselves;
- home visits to provide one-on-one guidance on more effective parenting and home teaching skills; and
- transportation and other support services that help the families participate on a consistent basis.

Related Bills:

None