

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 331

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Valencia County Teen Pregnancy Outreach

Sponsor(s): Representative Elias Barela

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 28, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 331 makes an appropriation to contract for provision of outreach activities for education about and prevention of teen pregnancy in coordination with existing youth service programs in Valencia County.

Fiscal Impact:

\$25,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

According to the analysis of HB 331 by the Department of Health (DOH), in 2005 the New Mexico teen birth rate for 15- to 17-year-olds was 35.7 per 1,000 females, a rate 1.6 times higher than the national teen birth rate of 22 per 1,000. In 2005 the birth rate for 15- to 17-year-olds in Valencia County was 30.2 per 1,000 with 54 births, or 3.0 percent of New Mexico's total.

DOH funds a number of teen pregnancy prevention education programs focusing on comprehensive sex education, service learning, after-school activities, and peer and parent education. Comprehensive sex education teaches about abstinence as the best method for avoiding STDs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception. It teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals, and options, to make responsible decisions about their reproductive health.

According to CYFD's analysis of other teen pregnancy prevention bills, teen parent services provided by the department work closely with and complement the teen pregnancy prevention programs provided through DOH. CYFD programs focus on:

- providing community-based services seeking to reduce the number of repeat pregnancies for teen mothers,
- helping clients complete high school or GED education,
- helping clients acquire job skills and develop life skills necessary to become self-sufficient, and
- providing parenting skills training aimed at lessening the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

The New Mexico GRADS (Graduation, Reality, and Dual-roles Skills) program also includes a statewide teen pregnancy prevention component. Since its inception in 1989, GRADS has grown from a \$127,500 project with four sites to a statewide system which now serves 32 schools in 24 school districts, and has an FY 08 operating budget of \$1.0 million. \$1.0 million for continued funding of GRADS is included in HB 3, as amended, for FY 09. LESC staff reported in the interim that the GRADS program has received approximately \$9.3 million in funding since 1995.

Related Bills:

HB 76a *Otero County Teen Pregnancy Prevention*

SB 185a *Statewide Teen Pregnancy Prevention*