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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/09

SPONSOR M. Sanchez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Bernalillo GED Training SB 177

ANALYST Varela

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$5.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 177 appropriates \$5 thousand dollars from the general fund to the local government division of the department of finance and administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2010 for Bernalillo county to provide educational training for persons seeking to attain their general educational development certificate.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$5 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, there are 150 adults on a waiting list for Youth Development, Inc., which provides a GED program in Bernalillo County. This is equal to a waiting period of approximately four to six months.

New Mexico is one of the lowest performing states in the percentage of young people earning a high school credential. HED states that 40 percent of Adult Basic Education (ABE) enrolled students were under 25 years of age in FY06 and FY07. Approximately 18 percent of adults in New Mexico do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. According to the 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 15 percent (70,064) of adults ages 18 and up are without a high school diploma in Bernalillo County.

HED's Adult Basic Education (ABE) Division oversees the GED programs around New Mexico that help people develop the skills necessary to enter college, obtain gainful employment, and become productive citizens. ABE programs serve people 16 years of age and older whose skills are below a twelfth grade equivalent.

Currently, the ABE Division oversees five adult education programs offering GED services in Bernalillo County: Central New Mexico Community College, Catholic Charities, Ser de New Mexico, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos. These programs are accountable to HED and the department institutes state-level policies, performance measures, and fiscal procedures. A statewide professional development plan has been approved by the U.S. Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) and is being implemented by the New Mexico Adult Education Association (NMAEA). By partnering with any local government division, HED can bring the existing accountability system and its best practices to the proposed program.

#### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Senate Bill 177 contains no performance measures; however, HED recommends that all GED programs not administered by public schools be monitored and receive oversight from HED. The existing statewide ABE system has existing quality control and accountability measures for programs offering GED services. Annual ABE performance measures are negotiated with and reported to OVAE at the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Is the appropriation directed to the correct department? Should the appropriation be made to the Higher Education Department?

PV/mt