

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 329

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .198825.1

Short Title: Vocational Ed Curricula Development

Sponsor(s): Representative Patricia A. Lundstrom and Others

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 18, 2015

Bill Summary:

HB 329 creates a new section of statute governing higher education to require the Higher Education Department (HED) to maintain a website or other means whereby public postsecondary educational institutions post all current vocational education curricula developed using public money.

The bill further:

- requires that each posted curriculum must include substantive development steps used by the postsecondary educational institution curriculum development team and process, including identification and procurement sources of pedagogical and other materials; and
- allows for both initiating and receiving public postsecondary educational institutions to consult with one or more local workforce development boards for vocational education curriculum development.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 329 does not contain an appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

HED reports that the functions and assignments mandated in HB 329 would require additional study, review, and resource assessment to understand the total fiscal impact; however, preliminary estimates indicate a minimum of two full-time equivalent positions to develop and maintain the website and coordinate and approve curriculum. HED estimates an additional operating budget impact of \$250,000 per year.

Substantive Issues:

HED points to the New Mexico Skill Up Network (SUN) as an existing resource that offers vocational curricula. According to the SUN website, the program is funded by a grant through the US Department of Labor, with Santa Fe Community College serving as the lead institution. SUN is a consortium of New Mexico public colleges sharing online courses to ensure that students have access to a variety of courses, certificates, and degree programs.

According to the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS):

- currently, educational programs and resulting credentials are not always aligned with the requirements of business or the economy;
- shared curricula in viable career pathways could enable public postsecondary institutions to enhance their educational offerings with degree and certificate programs that are in demand in the local community; and
- the department supports and encourages the collaboration among local workforce development boards provided for in HB 329, particularly because DWS serves as the state administrator over the local workforce system and the respective local workforce development boards.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HGEIC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 178a *Career Technical Education Courses & Terms*

SB 496 *Career Tech Education Courses as Electives*

SJM 12 *Review Branch & Community Colleges*