

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 171

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .198579.1

Short Title: Higher Ed Workforce Development Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Carlos R. Cisneros and Representative Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 17, 2015

Bill Summary:

SB 171 makes an appropriation to support workforce development programs (WDPs) at the Higher Education Department (HED).

Fiscal Impact:

\$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to HED for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

The analysis by HED suggests that if they receive the funding, it could be funneled through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program at HED to support workforce development activities. For example, it could be used to fund ABE teachers to serve as co-teachers to content area instructors in programs that train individuals for job openings in their community.

Substantive Issues:

According to HED, a September 2014 report from New Mexico Voices for Children identified a significant need for WDPs that target low-skill, low-income workers to increase their educational credentials that lead to specific jobs and improve their overall economic condition.

Background:

HED reports that one current WDP at the Santa Fe Community College, the I-BEST program, operates in six community and branch colleges across the state with many certificate programs that train individuals for job openings in their communities. I-BEST combines remedial course work with technical training to move students quickly through their programs and into employment. I-BEST has been funded under a Department of Labor grant that is soon ending.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 157 *High School Work Force Assessment System*

SB 162 *Work Force Needs Analysis*

SB 210 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*

SM 5 *Study Family-Work Support Programs*

HB 5 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*