

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 235

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .198155.1

Short Title: West Mesa High School Health Clinic

Sponsor(s): Senator Jacob R. Candelaria and Representative Antonio “Moe” Maestas

Analyst: David Craig

Date: March 17, 2015

Bill Summary:

SB 235 makes an appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) for expenditure in FY 16 to operate a school-based health clinic at West Mesa High School in Albuquerque.

Fiscal Impact:

\$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to DOH for expenditure in FY 16. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 16 shall revert to the General Fund.

According to DOH analysis for SB 235:

- the appropriation included in SB 235 is not part of the Executive budget request;
- an analysis of school-based healthcare administered to the 14,500 students in New Mexico in school year 2012-2013 revealed a projected savings of \$20.1 million compared to the total school-based healthcare budget of \$3.3 million; or in other words, New Mexico school-based health centers (SBHC) yielded a return on investment of \$6.07 for every dollar expended (Ginn and Associates, 2013); and
- some of the cost-saving measures include:
 - projected annual net hospitalization savings of \$206,725 for asthmatic students;
 - a projected annual net savings of \$692,827 from early detection and treatment of gonorrhea and Chlamydia;
 - a projected lifetime net savings of \$1,033,216 due to mental health services provided at SBHCs; and
 - a projected annual net savings of \$690,557 due to projected decreases in prescription drug costs (Ginn and Associates, 2013).

According to the analysis conducted in school year 2012-2013, this estimated Return on Investment (RoI) is a conservative estimate based on an analysis of only eight measures accounting for 47 percent of all patient visits, meaning that many other measures were not counted and the outcomes from 53 percent of patient visits have yet to be monetized (Ginn and Associates, 2013).

Substantive Issues:

According to the DOH analysis of SB 235:

- West Mesa High School is part of the community school initiative organized by the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County and is proposing a new SBHC in the Albuquerque area;
- a community school:
 - is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources; and
 - has an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement that lead to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities;
- as these partnerships grow, non-academic barriers to learning success are decreased and school performance is enhanced; and
- integrating and expanding school-based healthcare is an integral part of the full service community school concept.

The DOH analysis also notes that it is unclear as to:

- whether or not the West Mesa High School facility is capable of housing a clinic;
- whether West Mesa High School has the support from the school district to create a SBHC; and
- whether the DOH Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) would only be able to work with West Mesa High School if an approved facility and available providers were in place.

Additionally, according to the DOH analysis of SB 235:

- SBHCs provide care for many uninsured adolescents providing a much needed point of access to healthcare services; and
- of the 43,056 visits to SBHCs in school year 2013-2014:
 - 66 percent were to non-white adolescents; and
 - 8.0 percent were to American Indian youth (2014 OSAH SBHC Annual Status Report).

Background:

At an October 2013 interim meeting, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard a report on SBHCs from the New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Center (NMASBHC). According to the NMASBHC's written request to address the LESB, a SBHC:

- brings the healthcare provider's office into the school;
- allows nearly 50,000 students to have access to services through New Mexico's SBHCs, which provide critically needed physical, behavioral, and oral health services;
- can have a positive effect on students' health-risk behaviors, health outcomes, and academic performance;

- can improve school attendance;
- can reduce student discipline referrals;
- reduces the need for parents to miss work to take their children to a doctor; and
- can reduce overall healthcare costs.

Based on the DOH website:

- the DOH is the state entity that prescribes standards and benchmarks for SBHC's;
- the OSAH is the office in DOH that works to improve student and adolescent health through integrated school-based or school-linked health services;
- the OSAH promotes quality accessible student and community health services through the development and support of SBHCs; and
- these centers provide comprehensive primary care and behavioral health services by using a multi-disciplinary health team.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 15 *ABQ West Mesa High School Health Clinic* (Identical)

*SB 44 *School-Based Health Centers*