

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 288

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .203325.2

Short Title: College & Career Readiness Software

Sponsor(s): Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton

Analyst: Robin Shaya

Date: February 11, 2016 (Revised)

Bill Summary:

HB 288 appropriates \$330,000 from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) to purchase software that can address requirements of the next-step plan (NSP) program, providing web-based solutions for students, counselors, teachers, and parents to become engaged in exploration, planning, and preparation for college and careers. The software must also provide web-based solutions for professional development of school staff that work well with typical New Mexico demographics.

Fiscal Impact (Revised):

The bill appropriates \$330,000 from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for HB 2 & 4, which passed the House, appropriates approximately \$2.9 million to PED for college preparation, career readiness, and dropout prevention in FY17.

PED will need to issue a request for proposals, and it is unclear what the cost of such a program or the ongoing costs for annual licensing would be. The bill provides that school districts apply to PED to use the software. However, it is unclear whether PED could pass on some of the software's cost in the process, or if the software could be used at no cost to the school district.

Technical Issues:

HB 288 does not provide for charter schools to apply to PED for use of the software.

Substantive Issues:

While PED has a template NSP available for school use that aligns to statutory requirements set forth in Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978, it is a static system and is not interactive with electronic tools. Students, parents, and counselors do not have easy access to a career interest inventory with job information and labor market data about current and emerging employment trends.

Background:

The NSP is a personal, written plan developed by each eighth through 11th grade student at the end of the school year, and each 12th grade student during their senior year to target the student's postsecondary interests, and identify studies the student will complete during high school in order to be on track for graduation. The student reviews and updates their NSP annually, and each year's plan must explain any differences from the previous year's NSP.

The law requires the student's parents or legal guardians, and the student's guidance counselor or other school official charged with coursework planning, consult with and assist the student in developing the NSP, reflecting steps the student will take to:

- research personal career interests or goals;
- plan postsecondary education;
- explore financial aid opportunities; and
- examine industry certification or other career options.

The school must ensure that, while developing the NSP, the student is reasonably informed about:

- curricular and course options, including honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses, distance learning courses, career clusters, pre-apprenticeship programs, or remediation programs that the college and workplace readiness assessments indicate to be appropriate; and
- opportunities available that lead to different post-high-school options alternative opportunities available if the student does not finish a planned curriculum.