

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 159

**52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016**

**Tracking Number:** .203116.1

**Short Title:** Career Student Technical Organizations

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Pete Campos

**Analyst:** Robin Shaya

**Date:** February 1, 2016

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 159 appropriates \$400,000 from the General Fund to the board of regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) to support six career technical student organizations (CTSOs) to accelerate career and technical education (CTE) programs for students statewide.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The bill appropriates \$400,000 from the General Fund to the board of regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund. The FY17 executive budget recommendation includes \$4.0 million for the New Mexico Graduates Now initiative, of which \$225,000 is targeted to directly support CTOS; the FY17 Legislative Finance Committee budget recommendation included for that initiative.

**Substantive Issues:**

CTE programs are planned course sequences of academic core content and technical skills, which focus on a specific career cluster and prepare students to successfully transition toward their career goal. CTE programs typically are one-year or two-year postsecondary programs culminating in a career readiness certificate, associate degree, or other industry recognized credential.

The Higher Education Department (HED) identifies six CTOS that would be supported with this program: Business Professionals of America (BOA); Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA); Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); Skills USA (SUSA); Technology Student Association (TSA); and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

Since their inception in New Mexico, CTOS have served a program total of 74,288 New Mexico students through DECA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FCCLA, Future Farmers of America (FFA), HOSA, SUSA, and TSA organizations. In 2014:

- 89 percent of CTE high school students graduated;
- 97 percent of CTE postsecondary students met performance goals for technical skills; and
- 72 percent remained enrolled or transferred to another postsecondary institution.

According to HED, CTSOs support CTE programs, beginning in high school and continuing into postsecondary education. Student participation in CTSOs has been increasing over the past two years. In the 2013 fall semester, 5,403 New Mexico high school students participated in CTSOs. Participation in CTSOs has grown nearly 12 percent since 2006.

In past analysis, PED stated that CTSOs are youth organizations designed to support students in CTE programs, which prepare high school students for postsecondary education or entry into the workforce, noting rigorous academic content is tied to technical subject matter, internships, and other cooperative work experiences, which are hallmarks of CTE programs. CTSOs are considered an integral part of CTE programs in that they help students develop the technical and leadership skills that will enable them to succeed in their chosen career.