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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
55th Legislature, 1st Session, 2021

Bill Number	<u>HB100/aHEC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Lara</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.218792.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
Short Title	<u>College & Career Readiness Systems</u>		
Analyst	<u>Hathaway</u>	Original Date	<u>1/26/2021</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/7/2021</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee (HEC) amendment to HB100/aHEC strikes language that initially appropriated \$3 million to the Public Education Department (PED) to contract with an organization to provide evidence-based college and career readiness systems and, instead, directs the appropriation to PED without specifying it be used to contract with a single organization. This aligns HB100/aHEC with the Procurement Code.

The HEC amendment also changes language to direct PED to work with representatives of school districts and the New Mexico Alliance for College and Career Readiness instead of directing PED to work with representatives of school districts within the alliance. The HEC amendment also strikes language that required PED to work with the alliance for distribution of funds and instead notes PED must work with the alliance in developing a process for the application, but not in the distribution of funds.

Synopsis of Bill

HB100/aHEC would appropriate \$3 million to the Public Education Department (PED) to provide evidence-based kindergarten through grade 12 college and career readiness systems to address long-term economic development in New Mexico. HB100/aHEC would require college and career readiness systems to have a long history of successfully serving low-income, Hispanic, Native American, African American, and other generationally underserved students in New Mexico.

To be eligible for the funds, HB100/aHEC would require an organization to have a proven college and career readiness program that contains four elements: 1) comprehensive K-12 professional learning around leadership, instruction, cultural relevance, equity, and proven systems; 2) aligned activities under the data accountability, sustainability, and high achievement system currently in place by PED; 3) powerful teaching and learning strategies that support all content areas and can impact students on a school-wide and statewide basis; and 4) direct remedies to the opportunity gaps based on the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated sufficiency lawsuit by providing college and career opportunities for all New Mexico students.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY22 through FY24. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

New Mexico has a responsibility to improve the college and career readiness of its students. As part of the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit, the court ruled the New Mexico Constitution requires the state to provide every student with the opportunity to receive an education that adequately prepares them for college and career. The court also ruled the state is failing to meet this obligation, citing low graduation rates, insufficient proficiency in reading and math, and high rates of college remediation. College and career pathways are an evidence-based strategy for improving student outcomes. Several studies have found participation in college and career pathways has a positive effect on GPA, graduation, postsecondary enrollment, and acquisition of industry-recognized credentials.

The National Center for College and Career states college and career pathways should include a rigorous blend of career technical and traditional academic instruction alongside real world technical skills, opportunities for work-based learning, and personalized student supports. Effective college and career pathways encompass many programs commonly referred to as career technical education (CTE). New Mexico has made significant investments in CTE. During the 2019 legislative session, Laws 2019, Chapter 61, (House Bill 91) and Laws 2019, Chapter 2, (House Bill 44), enacted Sections 22-1-12 and 22-1-13 NMSA 1978, which established the Next Gen CTE Pilot program and created a CTE fund. The Next Gen CTE Pilot authorizes PED to make grants to school districts and charter schools to establish CTE programs or provide professional development and training to CTE teachers. HB91 also includes criteria for effective CTE programs including rigorous academics, relevant technical instruction, and pathways to postsecondary education. It does not include opportunities for work-based learning or student supports.

CTE funding in New Mexico is the highest it has been in over a decade as a result of both state and federal investments in CTE. In FY20, New Mexico received approximately \$9.3 million in federal funding under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act and another \$4.5 million in state funding as part of the Next Gen CTE Pilot. The PED analysis of HB100/aHEC notes the department has a comprehensive strategic plan for college and career readiness that includes a strengthened focus on CTE. The executive recommendation includes \$2.5 million for the career technical education fund and a recommendation to allow unspent K-5 Plus and Extended Learning Time Program funds to be distributed for CTE at schools that adopt extended school year programs. In addition, the executive recommendation includes \$83 thousand for a college and career readiness program.

The LESC budget recommendation includes \$5 million for the career technical education fund from the public education reform fund and the Legislative Finance Committee recommendation includes \$2 million for the career technical education fund from the public education reform fund.

The language in /aHEC closely resembles language in promotional materials from the nonprofit organization Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), which provides professional development to educators with the goal of improving student college and career readiness.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB100/aHEC requires PED to work with representatives of school districts and the NMACCR to develop an application process for funds. In accordance with the Procurement Code, PED will need to award the appropriation through a competitive sealed bid process.

Analysis from PED notes HB100/aHEC does not address how the department would oversee the program nor does it specify any performance metrics or outcomes. PED also writes the department would need to establish the framework for the funding stream, evaluate program effectiveness, and designate staff to monitor funds and coordinate the program. Lastly, while HB100/aHEC would require PED to partner with the New Mexico Alliance for College and Career Readiness to develop the process for the application, the department notes this may be feasible in developing the application, but not in distribution of funds.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to SB 107, Career Readiness Systems Statewide.

Relates to HB 87, which makes an appropriation to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the court’s rulings in the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain public school and higher education students and families.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)

JKH/mb