LFC Requester:	Liu
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 25 January 2025 *Check all that apply:* Bill Number: SB60 Original Correction x Amendment Substitute **Agency Name**

NM Independent Community and Code Colleges 994

Number: **Sponsor:** Padilla

High School Water **Short Person Writing** Vanessa K. Hawker Management Pilot Project Title: Phone: Email vhawker@hawkerhynson.com

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring	Fund
FY25	FY26	or Nonrecurring	Affected
\$1,250.0		NR	GF

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 60 (SB60) creates a high school water management and conservation pilot project within the public education department (PED), requiring at least five school districts be selected by PED to participate. SB60 appropriates \$1.25 million to PED to administer this project and to provide financial assistance grants to participating school districts for direct costs related to providing the course. Any unexpended or unencumbered funds will revert to the general fund.

PED is charged with developing academic content, performance standards, and a model curriculum for a high school water management and conservation elective course. Additionally, PED is to collect data and provide an annual report to the legislative education study committee.

PED may collaborate with the department of environment, post-secondary institutions, and counties/municipalities to identify issues involving water management and conservation that may be incorporated into the pilot.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB60 appropriates \$1.25 million to ped for a pilot project in water management and conservation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB60 is an opportunity to build greater relationships between secondary and post-secondary education within our communities. Many NMICC institutions offer training, certificates, associate degrees in various aspects of sustainability studies. Examples include Santa Fe Community College's water & wastewater operations and sustainable technologies programs, San Juan College's Energy Center of Excellence provides training in water security and sustainability, Northern New Mexico College has environmental science.

ALTERNATIVES

Funds could be appropriated to PED and the higher education department, stipulating secondary and post-secondary institutions work collaboratively together to develop the pilot high school curriculum, utilizing the expertise of New Mexico's community college faculty.