



LFC Requester: Jorgensen

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Check all that apply:*

Original ☒ Amendment ☐  
Correction ☐ Substitute ☐

Date Prepared: 02/21 /25

Bill No: HB528

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Parajon/Gonzales

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**Short Title:** HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP  
GRANT PROGRAM

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$10,000.00	None	Nonrecurring	GF

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: The [House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2](#) includes a \$40 million appropriation to the Public Education Department (PED) for the career technical education pilot project, including career technical student organizations, innovation zones and work-based learning initiatives, \$30 million of which is from the general fund, and \$10 million of which is from the career technical education fund.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Bill 528 (HB528) would create the high school internship grant program fund to provide internship opportunities for high school students in New Mexico. HB528 would require the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) to consult with the College and Career Readiness Bureau of PED to promulgate rules to administer and review applications for host organizations or internship programs.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill appropriates \$10 million from the general fund to the high school internship grant program fund for DWS to administer the program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall not revert to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

[Section 22-1-12 NMSA 1978](#) was passed in 2019, and it created a seven-year pilot project with a focus on developing a career and technical education (CTE) framework for the Public Education Department (PED). The pilot project is tasked with evaluating CTE programs and student outcomes to determine a high quality CTE program for New Mexico that prepares students for post-secondary or employment success. There are approximately 22,444 students enrolled as CTE concentrators (students enrolled in two or more CTE classes) across 119 local education agencies. The PED is responsible for CTE in New Mexico and oversees the administration of federal and state funds and implementation of the activities, including work-based learning and summer internships.

The provisions of HB528 may create duplicative responsibilities for the PED and the DWS, as the CTE pilot project requires the PED to consult with DWS and the Higher Education Department in developing a CTE framework. HB528 would require DWS to reestablish existing business relationships and redefine qualifications for its internship program. Furthermore, the introduction of this program may complicate existing programs focused on work-based learning. For example, school districts and students may feel uncertain about how each program operates or who is eligible. Additionally, duplicative efforts may lead to duplicative data collection, potentially resulting in misleading evaluations or recommendations.

According to a [2024](#) Legislative Finance Committee evaluation, the DWS supported 1,421 eligible youth with approximately \$7.7 million for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, adult education, and career services. The DWS also operates 26 in-person workforce connections centers across the state; yet the LFC reports that engagement with services offered by these centers is declining, particularly since the introduction of online services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The statewide average graduation rate for the 2022-23 school year was 76.6 percent, however CTE concentrators experienced a higher graduation rate at 95.8 percent. The provisions of HB528 may further positively impact graduation rates by increasing participation in work-based learning.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HB528 requires DWS to consult with PED's Career and College Readiness Bureau to determine qualifications for host organizations and internship programs for the high school internship grant program. This partnership may require additional personnel to administer the program and funds to ensure strong coordination and data collection exist within CTE programs and the proposed DWS-based internship programs.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to:

- House Bill 246, Increase Minimum Wage, which would increase the minimum wage for certain employees to \$17 per hour and provide for certain students enrolled in CTE programming to earn minimum wage funds.
- House Bill 433, Study Career & Technical Education, which proposes to require the Higher Education Department to collaborate with the Public Education Department, DWS, and the Legislative Education Study Committee to study CTE.
- House Bill 560, Workforce Readiness Programs, which requires the establishment of workforce readiness programs
- Senate Bill 64, School Career Development Success Project, which proposes the project as a three-year pilot.
- Senate Bill 130, School Career Tech Ed. Program Units, which proposes to create a CTE program unit to be added to the total program cost calculation.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.