

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 25 (HB25) would amend the duties of the legislative education study committee (LESC) by eliminating the restriction of the committee’s work related to higher education to the training of certified teaching personnel. The bill would also remove the gendered pronoun his from language referring to the committee’s director.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB25 does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB25 would significantly broaden the scope of the work of the LESC. Currently, the committee’s work in regard to higher education in New Mexico is limited to the training of certified teaching personnel in post-secondary institutions. By eliminating that limitation, the bill effectively gives the committee and its staff purview to study all aspects of New Mexico’s post-secondary education landscape including the Higher Education Department (HED). According to HED, there are seven four-year public colleges and universities, eight two-year community colleges, 10 two-year branch colleges, and four tribal colleges in New Mexico.

System Alignment

One potential benefit from the LESC expanding its portfolio is the support it could provide to better align New Mexico’s preK-12 system with that of the state’s higher education system to support efforts to improve student college readiness and performance. While the PED’s strategic plan includes strategies to improve college and career readiness, such as high-quality career technical education, more study is needed to determine how current high school practices prepare students for transition to college and career. Research has shown that as many as 50 percent of students must take remedial courses in college. Many of those students will never earn a college credential. The LESC could play an important role in improving those statistics.

Possible Redundancy

While not explicitly named in statute, the finance and operations of HED and New Mexico public institutions of higher education, along with laws affecting them, are implicitly within the purview of the legislative finance committee (LFC), as detailed in Section 2-5-3 NMSA 1978, which states the LFC shall, “examine the laws governing the finances and operation of departments, agencies and institutions of New Mexico and all of its political subdivisions, the effect of laws on the proper functioning of these governmental units, the policies and costs of

governmental units as related to the laws;”

It is unclear whether giving the LESC authority to study higher education issues would be a duplication of efforts, since the LFC and its staff presumably already do so.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In order to fulfill the expanded scope of work provided by HB25, the LESC may require additional personnel.

Additionally, LESC would be required to include findings and recommendations pertaining to post-secondary education in official reports.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A