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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/15/09

SPONSOR Keller LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Educational Institution Governance SJM 25

ANALYST Williams

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SJR 8, SJR 10 and HJR 22

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

No Response Received From
Council of University Presidents
New Mexico Association of Community Colleges
New Mexico Independent Community Colleges

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 25 requests the Higher Education Department to study the state's public, post-secondary educational governance structure and to make recommendations to the appropriate legislative interim committee by November 1, 2009.

The Senate joint memorial discusses the current governance structure has been in place since statehood, and there is a national debate on whether a state-level board or institutional board is more responsive to state and citizen needs. The legislation discusses a business or corporate model versus a collegial model and how to hold educational institutions accountable in an era of increasing complexity. The Senate joint memorial notes the state should "look at the efficacy of the current governance structure and the utility of having an overarching state board to ensure that taxpayers are getting the best public post-secondary educational system."

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The study would include:

- Descriptions and analyses of the governance structures in other states, with particular emphasis on statewide boards of regents;
- Governance board members election;
- Governance board member qualifications;
- Coordinated statewide post-secondary educational planning and implementation; and
- The role of the higher education department and the higher education advisory board.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Senate Joint Memorial does not contain an appropriation.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HED discusses costs may be incurred to develop this study, and funding is not provided.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Laws of 2005, Chapter 289 (House Bill 745) created the Higher Education Department as a cabinet agency, created the Higher Education Department advisory board and eliminated the Commission on Higher Education.

ALTERNATIVES

HED discusses the study could be delayed or another entity could conduct the analysis.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What are the state's underlying priorities for its post-secondary institutions?
2. How would those priorities be measured?
3. Is the Higher Education Department the appropriate entity to develop this study?

AW/mt

