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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos **ORIGINAL DATE** _____ **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Study Branch Community College Statutes **SJM** 13

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal (See fiscal implication)	Minimal (See fiscal implication)	Minimal (See fiscal implication)	Nonrecurring	HED operating budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 13 requests the Higher Education Department (HED) to review the adequacy, appropriateness and alignment of branch and community college statutes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HED reports that this request includes new functions or assignments to the department. Preliminary review of the request indicates an increase in administrative costs to HED. This request does not include an appropriation to help cover increased costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial notes that New Mexico statutes relating to the organization and operation of two-year post-secondary institutions and programs have evolved in a piecemeal, haphazard way over the past few years. HED concurs, stating that the statutes listed in the memorial were enacted in 1957, 1963, 1982, 1995, 2000 and 2003. There are 100 different sections in the six articles of chapter 21 NMSA 1978 listed in the memorial. Since these laws were enacted over a period of time greater than 45 years, the probability of conflict between statutory sections is high. It is likely some of the sections may be inconsistent with other earlier or later-enacted sections.

Other sections of NMSA not listed specifically in the memorial may also be affected.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HED notes additional staffing may be required to support the memorial request.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The short title of the bill may be confusing; the memorial requests that HED review statute for all two-year postsecondary institutions, not only branch community colleges.

KC/ds