

MINUTES

Legislative Education Study Committee Santa Fe, New Mexico January 20

Monday, January 20

The following voting, advisory, and guest members were present:

Voting: Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Sen. William P. Soules, Rep. Brian G. Baca, Rep. Joy Garratt, Sen. Craig W. Brandt, Rep. Raymundo Lara, Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya, Sen. Harold Pope Jr., and Sen. Mimi Stewart

Advisory: Rep. Yanira Gurrola

(1) Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of January Agenda and December Minutes. Representative G. Andrés Romero, Chair, Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), called the meeting to order. Chair Romero skipped introductions of the members of LESC and of LESC staff. In a motion by Senate President Pro Tempore, Mimi Stewart, and a second by Representative Joy Garratt, the agenda for the January LESC hearing was approved and the meeting minutes for the December LESC hearing were also approved.

(2) Director's Report. John Sena, Director, LESC, updated the committee on personnel changes, including filling a policy analyst role and announcing Jessica Hathaway as Deputy Director. Director Sena also presented the draft 2025 LESC Annual Report, as well as the newly updated LESC website. Committee members asked when to expect the final draft. Director Sena noted he hopes to deliver the members' final copies by the end of the following week. Senator Mimi Stewart moved to adopt the 2025 LESC Annual Report. The committee approved the report.

(3) LESC-Endorsed Legislation. John Sena, Director, LESC, presented 11 bills for endorsement by the committee, all of which the committee chose to endorse. The endorsed bills are described below:

- Acting on a motion by President Pro Tempore Stewart and a second by Vice Chair Soules, LESC endorsed a bill to amend the state equalization guarantee (SEG), the state's public school funding formula, by revising the methodology for the at-risk index, creating a standalone factor for English learners, and increasing the basic membership factor for students in sixth grade through 12th grade, by a vote of eight to one. Senator Brandt voted in opposition.
- Acting on a motion by President Pro Tempore Stewart and a second by Representative Herrera, LESC endorsed a bill to extend local match reductions and revise the waiver criteria in the Public School Capital Outlay Act, by a vote of eight to zero.
- Acting on a motion by Vice Chair Soules and a second by Senator Brandt, LESC endorsed a bill to create evidence-based standards

and robust clinical experience for school administrators by a vote of six to zero.

- Acting on a motion by President Pro Tempore Stewart and a second by Representative Garratt, LESC endorsed a bill to clarify allowable practices for student restraint and seclusion by a vote of six to zero.
- Acting on a motion by Senator Brandt and a second by Representative Garratt, LESC endorsed a bill to increase minimum teacher salaries to \$55 thousand at level 1, \$65 thousand at level 2, and \$75 thousand at level 3, by a vote of six to zero.
- Acting on a motion by Representative Garratt and a second by Representative Mirabal Moya, LESC endorsed a bill to create a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) innovation network by a vote of six to zero.
- Acting on a motion by Vice Chair Soules and a second by President Pro Tempore Stewart, LESC endorsed a bill to create a universal basic income pilot program for low-income pregnant individuals by a vote of four to two. Senator Brandt and Representative Mirabal Moya voted in opposition.
- Acting on a motion by Representative Garratt and a second by Representative Mirabal Moya, LESC endorsed a bill establishing a minimum salary of \$30 thousand for all educational employees by a vote of six to zero.
- Acting on a motion by Vice Chair Soules and a second by President Pro Tempore Stewart, LESC endorsed a bill creating a career development success pilot program by a vote of six to zero.
- Acting on a motion by Representative Garratt and a second by President Pro Tempore Stewart, LESC endorsed a memorial requesting LESC to convene a data governance and artificial intelligence working group by a vote of six to zero.
- Acting on a motion by President Pro Tempore Stewart and a second by Representative Mirabal Moya, LESC endorsed a bill to allow LESC to study all public education, including higher education and early childhood education, by a vote of seven to zero.

(4) LESC Budget Recommendation. John Sena, Director, LESC, provided an overview of staff's public school support proposal for FY26, including recommended increases in the appropriation to the SEG, proposals for increases to the transportation distribution, and considerations for below-the-line programs.

Committee members asked for context on the committee's recommendations for students who are unhoused and support for secondary educator literacy.

Vice Chair Soules made a motion for committee endorsement of the LESC staff public school support proposal and the motion was seconded by President Pro Tempore Stewart. The motion passed unanimously.