

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HJM 30

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .183969.1

Short Title: Higher Education Redesign Governor Task Force

Sponsor(s): Representative David C. Chavez and Others

Analyst: Ally Hudson

Date: February 10, 2011

Bill Summary:

HJM 30 requests that the Governor of New Mexico convene a higher education work group to develop recommendations on redesigning the higher education system to focus on targeted excellence at each public postsecondary educational institution.

HJM 30 further requests that the Governor name the chair of the work group, and that the membership comprise:

- the presidents of the six state universities;
- one former regent of each of the universities;
- one representative of the branch community colleges;
- one representative of the independent community colleges;
- the Secretary of Higher Education;
- the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA); and
- the Secretary of the Department of Information and Technology.

Among its other provisions, HJM 30 asks the work group:

- to identify:
 - the academic and work force areas in which each public postsecondary institutions excels; and
 - ways to coordinate disciplines and degrees across institutional lines;
- to consider the relationships between universities and their branch community colleges and consider the relationships between other two-year and four-year institutions;
- to develop criteria for the Higher Education Department (HED) and DFA to evaluate:
 - the efficacy of each institution's mission;
 - the necessity and cost of duplicate degree or program offerings by multiple institutions;
 - the need for and effectiveness of off-campus instruction at each institution and the need for alternatives to building brick-and-mortar campuses;
 - the proliferation of branch campuses;
 - administrative structures and finances at institutions;

- the strengths and weaknesses of each institution's academic programs; and
- institutional efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified faculty;
- to consider New Mexico's changing demographics and institutional statistics, including:
 - current and projected enrollment;
 - graduation rates per institution, campus, degree or certificate program, and length of time to graduation;
 - graduation rates for recipients of lottery tuition scholarships, college affordability scholarships, loan for service programs, and other state financial aid;
 - the assigned or natural geographic area of responsibility for each institution; and
 - work force development needs by economic and geographic sectors; and
- study the higher education funding formula and the factors that need to be changed to encourage excellence.

The joint memorial also resolves that the work group make recommendations to the Governor by November 1, 2011 on a new design for postsecondary education in New Mexico, with recommendations that:

- include a list of duplicate academic programs and branch campuses that should be closed or consolidated; and
- contain the process and timing to be followed for closure or consolidation of campuses and programs.

To conclude, HJM 30 requests that the Governor make recommendations to the Second Session of the 50th Legislature by January 1, 2012, including:

- statutory changes on the redesign of the higher education system;
- a new higher education funding formula;
- the identity of campuses recommended for closure or consolidation; and
- the elimination of unnecessary duplicate degrees.

Fiscal Impact:

HJM 30 does not contain an appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

According to an analysis by the New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC), it is unclear how the expenses of the work group will be covered without an appropriation.

Significant Issues:

According to an analysis by HED:

- The department, Council of University Presidents, Funding Formula Task Force, Higher Education Advisory Council, and others have discussed the current organization of higher education in New Mexico for over a year.

- After a thorough hearing from constituents throughout the state, the *State Master Plan for Higher Education: Building New Mexico's Future*, finalized in November 2010, made a number of recommendations for improvement of the higher education system. Furthermore, many of the recommendations outlined in HJM 30 are echoed in the master plan.

The NMICC analysis also states that, while HJM 30 “identifies several important policy issues which merit review and discussion, it is a matter of concern to community colleges, which enroll nearly 60 percent of the state’s postsecondary students and provide approximately 50 percent of total credit hour instruction, that the interests of these students would only be directly represented by two members of a 17 member work group.” Moreover, the analysis indicates, the proposed membership does not include representatives from other constitutionally established institutions such as Northern New Mexico College and the New Mexico Military Institute.

Related Bills:

HB 230 *Merge HED with DFA*

HJM 34 *Higher Education Interim Committee*