

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: CS/SJM 3

50th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2012

Tracking Number: .188908.1

Short Title: Create Interim Higher Education Committee

Sponsor(s): Senator Timothy M. Keller and Representative Gail Chasey

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: January 31, 2012

**SENATE RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3**

Bill Summary:

CS/SJM 3 requests that the Legislative Council create a two-year interim legislative committee to consult with and assist:

- the Higher Education Department (HED);
- public higher education institutions that offer bachelor's and graduate degree programs;
- community colleges;
- branch community colleges;
- vocational and technical institutions;
- learning centers; and
- off-campus instructional facilities.

The interim committee is to examine:

- opportunities to coordinate disciplines and degrees across institutional lines, particularly in high-demand and burgeoning industries;
- the impact of regional and national accreditation and professional standards on curriculum and graduation requirements;
- the relationship between state funding, institutional practices and students' perceptions of why students do not complete courses and programs;
- the relationships that currently exist and the future relationships that should be fostered between various higher education institutions;
- education outcomes and work force needs by economic and geographic sectors;
- higher education's accommodation of the state's changing demographics;
- faculty and staff compensation and academic research recruitment and retention;
- higher education administrative and teaching staff recruitment, retention, research, and compensation;
- funding adequacy and equity of distributions to all public institutions and facilities that offer any higher education courses;
- present and future funding and resource allocations to all public institutions and facilities that offer higher education courses, based on student needs, immediate and long-term

work force needs, and possible mission-differentiated higher education funding formulae; and

- dedication of a revenue stream for higher education, similar to that provided for public education students in K-12.

Finally, the joint memorial requests that the interim committee develop recommendations and report to the Legislature by November 30, 2012, and again by November 30, 2013.

Original Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

Memorials requesting the creation of interim committees are likely to have a fiscal impact, depending on the composition of the committee, including per diem costs of legislators.

Substantive Issues:

According to the bill analysis from Central New Mexico Community College:

- US Department of Labor data show that 40 percent of new jobs will be middle skills jobs, which require a two-year vocational education (e.g. plumbers, electricians, technicians, nurses, and police officers); and
- it is important to recognize that all higher education institutions play an important role in building New Mexico's work force and economy.

According to the bill analysis from New Mexico Independent Community Colleges:

- the New Mexico Legislature has not had an interim committee dedicated specifically to study higher education issues for several years;
- this responsibility has been served, to a large degree, by the Legislative Finance Committee, which has conducted studies and held hearings each year on selected higher education issues; and
- the Legislative Education Study Committee has conducted some higher education hearings as well, particularly in the area of teacher education programs.

According to the bill analysis by HED:

- this memorial appears duplicative of HED's statutory duties;
- HED developed a new funding formula in 2011 for higher education that is outcome-based, which was accomplished through an open and transparent process involving all the institutions of higher education, and, as the formula evolves, will strengthen the relationships between state funding, institutions of higher education, institutional practices, and educational outcomes for the faculty, students, and future work force in New Mexico;
- SJM 3 only requests the New Mexico Legislative Council create an interim committee, but does not require the appointment of the secretaries of HED or Public Education Department, educational leaders, business community leaders, or public sector participants; and

- without language to determine the make-up of the committee, it is unknown who would participate and what their expertise and knowledge is, pertaining to higher education issues in the state.

Related Bills:

SB 262 *Higher Ed Digital & Online Learning*

SB 277 *Higher Ed Employee Background Checks* (Identical to HB 181)

SJM 27 *Study Solvency of Lottery Tuition Fund* (Identical to HJM 14a)

HB 181 *Higher Education Employee Background Checks* (Identical to SB 277)

HJM 14a *Study Lottery Tuition Fund Solvency* (Identical to SJM 27)