

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HM 83

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .199867.1

Short Title: High School Math Education Task Force

Sponsor(s): Representative Jimmie C. Hall

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 3, 2015

Bill Summary:

Among its provisions, HM 83 requests the:

- Public Education Department (PED) to convene a high school mathematics education task force (HSMETF) including representatives from:
 - secondary mathematics teachers;
 - postsecondary faculty;
 - the Higher Education Department (HED);
 - the New Mexico School Superintendents' Association; and
 - the private sector;
- HSMETF to review policies, practices, and causes associated with students who use the Algebra II waiver;
- PED and HED to review internal resources to assess the feasibility of updating the educational accountability reporting systems more frequently and posting current data in a single searchable location;
- HED to research the higher education funding formula to explore incentives for higher education institutions to award degrees to education students who commit to teaching science and mathematics; and
- HSMETF, PED, and HED to prepare reports and present their findings to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and other appropriate interim committees each November 1.

Copies of HM 83 shall be transmitted to the:

- Governor;
- Secretary of HED;
- Secretary of PED;
- LESAC;
- Legislative Finance Committee;
- chair of PED's Mathematics and Science Advisory Council (MSAC) (see "Substantive Issues," below); and
- New Mexico Partnership for Math and Science Education.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Substantive Issues:

In 2007, legislation was enacted to establish the *Mathematics and Science Education Act*. Among its provisions the act created the MSAC. The council is composed of 12 members appointed by the Secretary of PED for staggered terms of four years. Using an application process, membership is appointed from throughout the state to ensure representation of the state's demographics, including geographic distribution, gender, and ethnic diversity as follows:

- four members from public schools (including at least two mathematics and science teachers and a school district administrator with math and science curricula experience);
- three members from public postsecondary educational institutions with expertise in mathematics or science education;
- four members from the private sector, including the national laboratories, museums, and science-and-engineering-based businesses; and
- one member who represents the New Mexico Partnership for Mathematics and Science Education.

The council meets quarterly. Its purpose is to:

- make recommendations regarding the statewide strategic plan for improving mathematics and science education;
- advise PED's Math and Science Bureau, PED, and the Legislature regarding appropriations for math and science education, administration, resources, and services, including programs for students and staff;
- work with the bureau to determine the need for improvement in math and science achievement of public school students and make recommendations to PED on how to meet these needs; and
- produce an annual report to be submitted by November 30 to the Governor, the Legislature, and PED on public elementary and secondary math and science student achievement.

The PED bill analysis notes that HM 83 requests that the task force review policies, practices, and causes associated with students who use the Algebra II waiver. The waiver provision, however, is set forth in statute and allows students to complete a less stringent mathematics graduation requirement than Algebra II, which PED believes contradicts the reform to raise the standards for New Mexico high students to be successful.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

SM 90 *High School Math Education Task Force* (Identical)