

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2015

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Review Branch and Community Colleges SB SJM12

ANALYST Hartzler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Public Education Department (PED)
 New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC)

No Response Received from

New Mexico Association of Community Colleges (NMACC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Joint Memorial

Senate Joint Memorial requires HED to form a “branch and community college task force” to (1) review all relevant New Mexico statutes affecting community colleges, branches, technical and vocational institutions, and others for adequacy, appropriateness, and alignment and (2) develop recommendations for statutory modifications for consideration in the second session of the fifty-second legislature. HED will form the task force, in consultation with PED and community college and branch campus leaders. There are no criteria for task force membership other than it includes community college and branch college leaders who represent geographically- and demographically-different areas.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SJM 12 does not have a significant fiscal impact. However, NMICC notes that, given other departmental initiatives and institutional priorities, it may be difficult for presidents, directors,

and other leadership staff to participate fully on such a task force.

In addition, PED reports that reviewing relevant statutes and regulations would require time by staff and legal counsel to form the task force, conduct meetings, complete reviews, and draft final recommendations or report. This could be burdensome given PED's other priorities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED and HED supported the memorial's observation that enabling statutes date back to 1957, 1963, and 1982 and that some provisions may be obsolete, duplicative, or no longer relevant to current practices. A thorough review of statutes could help the Legislature amend current law so that it better reflects college readiness, workforce preparedness, and postsecondary completion goals and supporting best practices and programming.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no performance measures in the memorial, other than providing recommendations during the 2015 legislative interim for members to consider during the second session of the fifty-second legislature.

RELATIONS

At a minimum, SJM 12 relates to Chapter 6, sections referring to public finance; Chapter 7, sections related to taxation; Chapter 10, sections pertaining to public officers and employees; Chapter 21, articles 2A (college district taxes), 7 (UNM Taos branch), 13 (community colleges), 14 (branch campuses), 16 (technical and vocational institutions), 16A (learning centers), and 27 (maintenance for two-year colleges); and Chapter 22, article 11 (retirement).

In addition, HM 14 requires a committee of executive departments and business leaders to review career pathways and skills for high school and college students. PED observed that the work of the committee and task force could be related and result in findings beneficial to both efforts.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

A review of laws applicable to postsecondary institutions will not be completed. NMICC noted that provisions of law that do not cover community college, branch campuses, and vocational and technical schools will continue.

TH/aml/bb