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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/16

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Community & Branch College Statutes SM 35

ANALYST Dulany

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SM 35 requests HED to appoint a branch and community college task force to conduct a thorough review of all relevant New Mexico statutes of adequacy, appropriateness, and alignment and to develop recommendations for modification to be presented to the first session of the 53rd Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SM 35 does not have a significant fiscal impact. In a similar memorial from the 2015 regular legislative session, New Mexico Independent Community Colleges noted that, given other departmental initiatives and institutional priorities, it may be difficult for presidents, directors, and other leadership staff to participate fully in such a task force.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As noted in the memorial, certain sections of current statute appear outdated or irrelevant to current practice. As an example, Chapter 21, Article 14, which governs branch community colleges, sets forth provisions that a branch community college board may award an appropriate

certificate upon completion of an educational curriculum and program leading to alternative certification for degreed individuals pursuant to Section 22-10-3.5 NMSA 1978; however, Section 22-10-3.5 NMSA 1978 was repealed in 2003. As another example, the Ruidoso Branch Community College was established through this portion of statute in 2005; however, no other branch community colleges are referenced in Article 14.

PED notes current law for two-year postsecondary institutions are included in a variety of statutes, including Chapter 21, Article 14 NMSA 1978, the Community College Act, the Technical and Vocational Institute Act, the Off-Campus Instruction Act, the College District Tax Act, the Learning Center Act, and the Workforce Training Act. The department suggests existing statutes may be misaligned with current and future needs.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HED staff would be required to take on administrative tasks related to the task force, including research of current statutes, organizing the task force meetings, and writing the required report.

TD/jo