

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SJM 25a

**49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010**

**Tracking Number:** .180456.1

**Short Title:** Study Autism & School Services

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Clinton D. Harden, Jr.

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 9, 2010

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**AS AMENDED**

**The Senate Floor amendment:**

- **makes a technical correction on page 1, line 2, by striking “First Session, 2009” and inserting in lieu thereof “Second Session, 2010”; and**
- **adds the New Mexico State University Southern New Mexico Autism Project to the groups collaborating in the study.**

**Original Bill Summary:**

SJM 25 resolves that the Public Education Department (PED) conduct a study to:

- determine how to provide best practice services to all children with autism in the public schools through the use of highly qualified New Mexico autism specialists in the development and implementation of the individualized education plans of all students statewide with autism spectrum disorder; and
- develop a written plan to show steps that PED will take to work actively, collaboratively, and cooperatively with other state agencies, groups, and stakeholders, including, but not limited to the:
  - Department of Health;
  - Human Services Department;
  - Children, Youth, and Families Department;
  - Autism Task Force;
  - New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council;
  - Behavioral Health Planning Council of New Mexico;
  - New Mexico Autism Society; and
  - University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability; and
- report its findings, including a written plan, to the Legislative Education Study Committee by September 30, 2010.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Legislative memorials do not contain an appropriation.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to the PED analysis of SJM 25, the scope of the study could have considerable impact on existing resources in the Special Education Bureau.

In general, the implications of memorials with requests for substantial studies and early reporting requirements on state agencies operating under budget cuts, hiring freezes, and employee furloughs can be significant.

**Related Bill(s):**

None as of 2/9/2010.