

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 37

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .185291.2

Short Title: Early Childhood Education Study

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 15, 2011

Bill Summary:

SJM 37 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and the Public Education Department (PED) conduct a study to:

- determine the current status of early identification of young children for early childhood education programs and the continuum of special education services;
- identify research-based strategies that are having a positive impact on enrolled students;
- examine guidelines and practices regarding placement of pre-kindergarten students in least restrictive environments;
- examine data collection practices in early childhood speech and language programs as they relate to subsequent referrals to special education; and
- make recommendations to ensure that students remain in the system no longer than necessary.

SJM 37 further requests that the LESC and PED report their findings and recommendations by November 30, 2011.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

Technical Issues:

There seem to be some technical issues with SJM 37:

- the study is to concentrate on “enrolled students,” but the memorial does not identify the program in which the students are enrolled;

- LESC and PED are to make recommendations on the best approach to ensure that students do not stay in the “system” longer than necessary, but it is unclear what system is contemplated by the instructions; and
- SJM 37 does not indicate to whom the report and findings of the study will be presented.

Related Bills:

SB 120aa *Early Childhood Care & Education Act*
SB 167aa *Equal Pre-K Program Appropriations*
SM 57 *Native American Early Childhood Program Study*
HB 296a *Early Childhood Care & Education Act*