

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 12

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .199265.1

Short Title: Review Branch & Community Colleges

Sponsor(s): Senator Pete Campos

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: March 19, 2015

Bill Summary:

SJM 12 requests that the Higher Education Department appoint a “branch and community college task force” to conduct a review of adequacy, appropriateness, and alignment in all relevant New Mexico statutes and develop recommendations to be presented to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2015 for consideration by the 2016 Legislature.

The task force requested in SJM 12 is to:

- be appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Education and branch and community college presidents; and
- include membership reflective of the geographic and demographic representation of the State of New Mexico.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Fiscal Issues:

Legislative memorials requesting the formation of a task force are likely to have some fiscal impact in terms of staff time, in-state travel, and office supplies.

Substantive 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As noted in the memorial, certain sections of current statute appear outdated or irrelevant to current practice.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certification for degreed individuals pursuant to Section 22-10-3.5 NMSA 1978; however, Section 22-10-3.5 NMSA 1978 was repealed in 2003.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.

The Public Education Department bill analysis states that the Legislature needs a review and update of the statutes governing community colleges to ensure that the legal framework relating

to two-year postsecondary institutions is adequate, appropriate, and aligned to current and future requirements.

Committee Referrals:

SRC/SEC

Related Bills:

HB 260 *Santa Fe Community College Higher Ed Center*

HB 375 *Branch Colleges in Tuition Scholarship*

HB 485 *Doña Ana Regional Educational Initiative*

HM 64 *“Community College Day”*

SB 409 *Santa Fe Community College Auto Program*

SB 410 *Santa Fe Community College Radiography Tech*

SB 462 *Community College Board Member Employment*

SM 58 *“Community College Day”*