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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB195</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Sapien</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.205474.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SRC/SEC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Allow LESC to Study Post-Secondary Education</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Hand</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/7/17</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/20/17</u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 195 (SB195) removes restrictions on the scope of work of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC). Currently, Section 2-10-3 NMSA 1978 (Laws 1971, Chapter 287, Section 3, as amended) restricts the LESC from replicating studies conducted by the board of educational finance and from studies related to postsecondary education.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

SB195 does not contain an appropriation.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Currently, there is not an interim legislative committee tasked with the study of postsecondary education in New Mexico. The Legislative Finance Committee provides fiscal analysis related to postsecondary education, and some policy guidance in the form of performance measures. The LESC also hears testimony and provides analysis on public school subject matter that overlaps with postsecondary education such as dual credit, AP coursework, educator preparation, and college readiness. The Higher Education Department has oversight responsibilities for public and private postsecondary educational institutions operating within the state (see Sections 21-2-3 and 21-1-26 NMSA 1978). This bill would increase the scope of the LESC's work to the entire pipeline of public education.

Created in 1965 as a permanent bipartisan, bicameral interim committee of the New Mexico Legislature, the LESC:

- conducts a continuing study of education in New Mexico, the laws governing such education and the policies and costs of the New Mexico educational system, including the training of certified teaching personnel in postsecondary institutions;
- recommends changes in laws relating to education; and
- makes a full report of its findings and recommendations.

The LESC comprises 31 legislators (10 voting, 21 advisory) appointed to provide proportionate representation from both houses and both political parties. Assisted by a permanent staff, the committee meets regularly during the interim to study education issues. To fulfill its statutory responsibilities, the LESC attempts to provide all legislators with objective information pertaining to New Mexico public schools as well as staying current with state and national education trends.

The major responsibility of LESC staff during legislative sessions is to assist the standing education committees of the two houses, as well as other committees, by providing analyses of public school-related legislation under consideration and by supplying technical support in the development of public school support appropriations. In this role, staff members prepare expository, statistical, and graphic analyses of both financial and programmatic aspects of the New Mexico educational system; staff members also assist individual legislators in the initial stages of drafting legislation and help legislators analyze potential advantages and disadvantages of measures under consideration.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

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