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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018

Bill Number	<u>HM46</u>	Sponsor	<u>Small</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.209679.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Dual Credit Program Task Force</u>		
Analyst	<u>Rogne</u>	Original Date	<u>1/30/18</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 46 (HM46) requests the Higher Education Department (HED) and the Public Education Department (PED) to convene a task force to study the cost of dual credit delivery and the current funding structure, and to propose solutions to compensate postsecondary educational institutions adequately for course instruction. The task force would also recommend a strategy to promote the growth and expansion of the dual credit program, and report its findings to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and LESC by October 1, 2018. The task force would include representatives from the Workforce Solutions Department, the Council of University Presidents, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges, and New Mexico independent community colleges and other interested parties.

FISCAL IMPACT

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The dual credit program allows high school students to enroll in college-level courses and receive high school and college credit simultaneously. Numerous studies show that students benefit from dual credit enrollment while in high school, during the transition to college, and throughout the college experience.

The LFC released *Dual Credit: Funding and Student Outcomes* in September 2017, an update to its 2012 report on dual credit in New Mexico. The LFC report found that dual credit participation has increased 65 percent from FY11 to FY16, partially in response to the 2009 implementation of the requirement that students must take at least one Advanced Placement, dual credit, distance learning, or online course to graduate from high school. Total state spending on dual credit has also increased from an estimated \$34.4 million in FY12 to an estimated \$54.4 million in FY16. According to the LFC, while high schools receive full funding for dual credit students,

postsecondary educational institutions are receiving significantly less for each dual credit course as they are required to waive tuition for dual credit students.

HM46 proposes to implement a task force to address the higher education system's heavy cost burden within the current funding structure of the dual credit program.

The Dual Credit Council, an advisory group of PED and HED staff that issue recommendations on dual credit policy to their cabinet secretaries, began developing pre-draft regulations and a dual credit procedures manual in 2016 to address issues with dual credit programming including adequate compensation for postsecondary educational institutions. PED and HED are still in the process of collaborating on changes to the dual credit rules; proposed changes are expected in early 2018.

The University of New Mexico suggests the task force study of dual credit include how many students take dual credit in the state and choose to stay in New Mexico compared to how many take free dual credit courses and then leave the state for postsecondary education.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Would the dual credit task force proposed in HM46 duplicate the ongoing efforts of the Dual Credit Council?

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- University of New Mexico

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