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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Romero, GA/Baca/Garratt/Mirabal **LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_  
Moya/Lara **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/4/25  
**SHORT TITLE** Study Public Education System **BILL**  
**NUMBER** House Bill 193  
**ANALYST** Liu

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
LESC	No fiscal impact	\$100.0	\$100.0	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.  
 \*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Memorial 2

### Sources of Information

LFC Files  
 Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Files

Agency Analysis Received From  
 Public Education Department (PED)  
 Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)  
 Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)  
 Higher Education Department (HED)  
 New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC)  
 University of New Mexico (UNM)  
 New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)  
 New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)  
 New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Bill 193

House Bill 193 authorizes the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) to study New Mexico’s entire public education system, removing a provision restricting the study of higher education to teacher preparation programs. This bill is endorsed by LESCE.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not contain an appropriation but would expand the scope of work for LESC staff. LESC's FY26 budget request was \$1.9 million, an increase of \$10 thousand (or 0.5 percent) for 12 FTE and 3 intern positions. Currently, LESC has 10 FTE. It is likely the agency will request at least 1 FTE to study the higher education system, like LFC, at about \$100 thousand.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Current state law authorizes LESC to study the laws, policies, and costs of New Mexico's public educational system, apart from higher education unless the subject is related to the training of certified teaching personnel in post-secondary institutions. Provisions of this bill would eliminate that restriction and allow LESC to study all educational policies in New Mexico.

LFC provides budget analyses and program evaluations for all aspects of state government, including public education and higher education. LFC currently has 3 analyst FTE focused on public and higher education and 9 evaluator FTE that evaluate agencies and programs on a regular basis. In the last five years, LFC has published 16 evaluations of public schools, six evaluations of higher education, and six evaluations of early childhood programs. LESC primarily provides analyses and evaluations of public schools. Provisions of this bill would increase legislative oversight and monitoring of higher education institutions and early childhood programs.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Provisions of this bill would increase reporting from the Higher Education Department and higher education institutions, as LESC would begin soliciting more information from these agencies.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

This bill relates to House Memorial 2, which requests LESC to convene a working group to study data governance and artificial intelligence.

SL/hj/SL2/rl