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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/09

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Expand Authority of LESC SB 154

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$0.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

#### No Responses Received From

Legislative Education Study Committee  
Council of University Presidents  
Higher Education Institutions

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Introduced on behalf of the LESC, Senate Bill 154 would amend 2-10-3 NMSA 1978 to:

- Remove the gender reference in paragraph A.;
- Delete the limitations in paragraph B which prohibit duplication of studies conducted by the Board of Educational Finance and prohibit studies related to higher education other than those dealing with training of certified teaching personnel in post-secondary institutions; and
- Add “legislative” as a modifier to session in paragraph D. with clarification that reports are made on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day “of that session”.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 154 contains no appropriation and financial impact is indeterminate depending on the study costs associated with extending the LESC's authority to study additional issues in higher education.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this bill would change the reporting relationship of higher education institutions. New Mexico's institutions of higher education have reported to the Legislative Finance Committee since the days of the Educational Finance Committee in the early 1950s, through the Commission on Higher Education beginning in the 1980s and since 2005 through the New Mexico Department of Higher Education (NMHED). Unlike K-12 where funding formula and needs of schools are overseen by LESC, funding for higher education and accountability reporting is under the LFC. The higher education institutions and NMHED work closely with the LFC staff to adjust the formula to meet the on-going and changing needs of higher education and regularly report to the LFC on their work. The bill may have performance implications for NMHED as LESC would have authority to propose legislation impacting higher education institutions and higher education policy and may direct the NMHED to ensure implementation of bills adopted.

The DFA notes that:

In recent years, the LESC has worked in partnership with the New Mexico Office of Education Accountability and/or the New Mexico Higher Education Department to examine and hear reports on issues related to higher education. Some of the issues examined include:

- Remediation rates of New Mexico public school students in public institutions of higher education;
- Creation of a P-20 educational data system;
- The American Diploma Project; and
- The College and Career Readiness Policy Institute.

These partnerships in data analysis have lead to successful collaborations on issues such as high school reform and data sharing, and in fact, SB 152, which requires New Mexico institutions of higher education to report back to high schools on freshman outcomes to students and SB 317 which requires the use of the K-12 student ID on transcripts are pieces of proposed legislation that are a result of this collaboration.

SB 154 would provide the LESC with the authority to request data and studies from the Higher Education Department and Institutions of Higher Education as it currently does with the Public Education Department and public schools and districts.