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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/2016

SPONSOR Beffort LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Virtual Schools Study Group SM 90

ANALYST Leger

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total				*see fiscal implications		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Legislative Education Study Committee

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Memorial 90 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) together with the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) establish a study group to study funding and quality control issues with virtual schools in New Mexico and make recommendations to the Legislature and the executive.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the memorial would be absorbed by LESL and LFC's operating budgets.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In January of 2016 the LFC issued a program evaluation examining the performance, cost and governance of New Mexico charter schools. In the evaluation the LFC recommended creating an advisory group to review online education issues and create statutory requirements for virtual school funding, and student achievement expectations.

The program evaluation, “Public Education Department Performance, Cost, and Governance of Selected Charter Schools” is available on the LFC website at <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lfc/lfcdocs/perfaudit/Public%20Education%20Department%20%E2%80%93%20Performance,%20Cost,%20and%20Governance%20of%20Selected%20Charter%20Schools.pdf> .

The study group would be included in the LFC’s Program Evaluation and analyst work plans that are approved by the committee. The LESC also indicates inclusion in its 2016 interim work plan and further discussion by the committee.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The mission of the LFC is to provide the Legislature with objective fiscal and public policy analyses, recommendations, and oversight of state agencies to improve performance and to ensure accountability through the effective allocation of resources for the benefit of all New Mexicans.

JLL/jle