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

Bill Number	<u>HB340</u>	Sponsor	<u>Small, Garcia Richard, Roch, Soules</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.205598.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HLEDC/HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Education Strategic Planning Task Force</u>		
Analyst	<u>Terrazas</u>	Original Date	<u>2/9/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u>3/2/17</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 340 (HB340) proposes to create the “education strategic planning task force” to develop a 20-year strategic plan for education from early childhood through college graduation. To perform the necessary studies, evaluations, and analyses, HB340 requires the task force to convene advisory panels and engage key players and stakeholders in early childhood, public education and higher education. The task force is required to provide the strategic plan framework and make recommendations for necessary legislative and executive action to the Legislature and the governor by November 1, 2019. The task force would include members of the house and senate; public education stakeholder groups; superintendents; school board members; and members representing the business community, a research higher education institution, a comprehensive higher education institution, and an independent community college. The secretary must serve ex officio and may appoint designees.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB340 does not contain an appropriation.

HB340 entitles 14 public members of the task force to per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act. The state agencies included in the task force would incur costs for staff time, travel, and office supplies, which cannot be determined because the length and frequency of task force meetings is unknown. The Legislative Council Service (LCS), the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) would incur costs for staff time in conducting research and preparing materials.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In 2010, the Public Education Department (PED) published a department strategic plan with targeted goals and strategies for FY11 through FY15. The plan incorporated elements from the HB212 Public School Reforms, the 2010 Race to the Top grant application, and the College and Career Readiness Policy Institute Action Plan. However, PED published a separate strategic

plan, “Kids First, New Mexico Wins,” in 2011 and another strategic plan in 2012. It appears no other strategic plans have been created since then. It is unclear if the department has evaluated the previous strategic plans to determine their effectiveness or effects on student outcomes.

According to PED, it has established K-12 goals that align with the governor’s goal of ensuring at least 66 percent of working-age New Mexicans have a degree or post-high-school credential by 2030. As part of its efforts, PED has aligned its early childhood education systems with the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) through the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant.

The task force is required to develop a 20-year strategic plan framework by November 2019. In carrying out its duties, the task force would need to convene advisory panels and collaborate with various education stakeholders, including licensed school employees, parents and parent-teacher organizations, and student leadership organizations. The task force must evaluate the current education system and funding mechanisms for early childhood, public and higher education; evaluate the effect of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act on public and higher education in New Mexico; and evaluate previous New Mexico-specific studies pertaining to public and higher education and school funding. The task force must analyze the impact of education on economic development in the state and analyze the current and future professional and occupational needs of employers in the state. Members of the task force would need to conduct literature searches for several purposes, including searching for best practices currently in use in school districts, charter schools, and postsecondary educational institutions. HB340 expects the task force to study the needs of English learners, special education and at-risk students. The task force must engage the Higher Education Department (HED) to, among other things, determine how to better align public education and higher education. The task force is expected to analyze successful models to recruit and retain effective licensed school employees, evaluate the effectiveness of the current level of investment in education to propose a long-range financing plan, and evaluate strategic planning models and select or design a long-range strategic planning framework for New Mexico public education.

PED, HED, early childhood educators, school districts, charter schools, and public postsecondary educational institutions are expected to give periodic updates on the short- and long-term plans implemented in accordance with the framework.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Legislative Council would appoint three members from the house, two members from the senate, two superintendents, and two school board members. The council would also need to approve the task force’s work plan and budget.

The governor is required to appoint two members representing the business community, one member representing a research higher education institution, one member representing a comprehensive higher education institution, and one member representing an independent community college.

The secretary of education would serve ex officio and can appoint designees.

The task force would be staffed by LCS, LESC, and LFC.

With approval of the legislative council, LCS may enter into contracts for independent education experts and for other technical assistance. LCS may apply for grants and monetary or in-kind donations for the task force to carry out its duties.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) was formed as a result of federal legislation and the Early Childhood Care and Education Act in 2011. The governor appointed a 15-member council to make recommendations to CYFD and the Legislature regarding early learning issues in the state. ELAC's duties include making recommendations on efficient and effective ways to leverage state and federal funding for early childhood care and education as well as recommendations on how to coordinate and align an early childhood care and education system that includes appropriate care and education services for New Mexico families.

In August 2016, HED met with stakeholders representing higher education institutions, faculty, businesses, the Legislature, and executive agencies to initiate the strategic planning and attainment goal discussion for the establishment of a statewide plan for higher education. HED's plan is to compile feedback from higher education institutions, appoint a Strategic Planning Executive Committee, and draft a Higher Education Statewide Strategic Plan by April 2017. The goal is to complete the plan by September 2017.

Eastern New Mexico University issued a statement saying it would support a statewide strategic plan that better integrates early childhood education, K-12, and higher education.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What role would similar existing efforts play in the creation of the 20-year strategic plan?

RELATED BILLS

Relates to *HB461, Education Commission Strategic Plan, which requires the Public Education Commission to work with PED to develop the five-year strategic plan for public elementary and secondary education in the state by convening advisory panels and engaging stakeholders with interest in early childhood, public, and higher education.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Legislative Finance Committee
- Public Education Department
- Children, Family and Youth Department
- Eastern New Mexico University

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