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

Bill Number	<u>SB206a</u>	Sponsor	<u>Sapien</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.205238.3</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>State Early Learning Advisory Council Changes</u>		
Analyst	<u>McCorquodale</u>	Original Date	<u>2/2/17</u>
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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 206 (SB206) improves opportunities for stakeholder input to the State Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). On page 3, line 4, the number of providers for early childhood education services is changed back to two members. On page 3, line 16, the number of public members on the council is changed to three from four. On page 9, line 11, the governor will appoint one member instead of two. The rest of the changes made pursuant to the amendment are clean up language.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 206 (SB206) proposes to change the composition and terms of the State Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). SB206 requires term limits for council members; expands requirements for recommendations by the council to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the Legislature; and extends the sunset date for the council.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB206 does not have an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB206 would increase membership for ELAC from 15 to 17 adding the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) director and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) director as ex officio. Currently, ELAC has three ex officio members: the secretary of the Public Education Department (PED) or designee; the secretary of CYFD or designee; and the director of the Head Start State Collaboration office within CYFD.

SB206 adjusts the composition of the 12 other members, who are appointed by the governor, of no more than five of whom are from the same political party in the following ways: one provider from an early care and education provider (down from two); four public members, including two members with knowledge and experience in early childhood programs (up from two); and two members appointed by the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence (down from three).

SB206 changes the term limits for ELAC's membership appointed by the governor from four years to two years with the exception that if the appointment is made before January 1, 2018, then the term limit will remain four years. Term limits will expire on December 31 of the appropriate year and council members cannot be appointed to serve for more than three terms.

SB206 includes a temporary provision outlining a transition of membership for ELAC. If enacted, the following members of ELAC would no longer be members with the term that expires first: the two early care and education services personnel, and the one member of the New Mexico Business Roundtable. The bill requires the governor to appoint two new public members to ELAC within 30 days of the bill's enactment.

SB206 adds new language requiring ELAC to make recommendations to CYFD and the Legislature on: statewide coordination of early childhood care and education; delineating gaps in child care programs and the early childhood care and education system; methods for improving and increasing capacity for growth in the early childhood education and care system (child care home visitation, prekindergarten, head start, early head start, and family infant toddler early intervention services); and describing prekindergarten academic and parenting components.

Lastly, SB206 repeals ELAC's termination date of July 1, 2017 and extends the council's sunset date to July 1, 2023. ELAC will continue to operate until July 1, 2024 when the sunset expires.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico needs to better coordinate early childhood programs to prevent duplication and fragmentation of services, and to build capacity by braiding federal and state dollars to strategically expand services for children birth through kindergarten. An effective model of governance for early childhood programs should create coherence among policies and services. Build Initiative, a national organization that helps state leaders develop a comprehensive system of early childhood programs, indicated programs are delivered to young children have different designs and purposes, including Head Start, state child care programs that represent a combination of federal and state funds and requirements, as well as state-funded prekindergarten. A well-built structure of early childhood programs is a crucial step in reducing fragmentation, uneven quality, and inequity in early childhood programs and services.

RELATED BILLS

SB106, Early Childhood Services Department, creates a cabinet-level Early Childhood Services Department as well as reauthorizes ELAC.

SJM5, Reconvene J. Paul Taylor Childhood Task Force, to implement and sustain the task force's recommended early childhood behavioral health action and child abuse plans.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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