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

Bill Number	<u>SJM5</u>	Sponsor	<u>Senator Ortiz y Pino</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.205459.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SRC/SPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>Reconvene J. Paul Taylor Childhood Task Force</u>		
Analyst	<u>McCorquodale</u>	Original Date	<u>1/28/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 5 (SJM5) proposes the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force be reconvened for an additional year to implement and sustain the task force's recommended early childhood behavioral health action and child abuse plans. The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC) would convene the task force.

FISCAL IMPACT

SJM5 does not include an appropriation. According to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), no additional fiscal impact on the operating budgets for UNMHSC and the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) were reported.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), an estimated \$4,608 will be needed to cover the cost of staff attending the meetings.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In response to House Memorial 75 and Senate Memorial 5 of the 2014 Legislative session, UNMHSC convened the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force and developed recommendations to strengthen New Mexico's early childhood behavioral health services system. The J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force has met for the past four years and has made annual reports with recommendations to the governor and the Legislature. However, CYFD believes the task force may be duplicative since many of the same agencies and individuals working with the governor's-appointed Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) are already working to perform many of the same initiatives.

LFC indicated the Early Childhood Care and Education Act outlines detailed statutory responsibilities of ELAC. Part of the responsibilities include making recommendations to the department and the Legislature on how to coordinate and align an early childhood care and education system that comprise child care, prekindergarten, home visitation, early head start,

head start, early childhood special education, early intervention, and family support that ensures New Mexico families have consistent access to appropriate care and education services. ELAC is also charged with ensuring effective collaboration with state and local child welfare programs and early childhood health and behavioral health programs.

CYFD reported the department has made significant strides in the development of an infant-toddler-early childhood mental or behavioral health system throughout the state. CYFD believes it is important the J. Paul Taylor Task Force continue to work closely with them to build on accomplishments that have been achieved and to ensure planning efforts are coordinated and focused to address these issues.

DOH indicated the department was unaware of J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force developing an early childhood behavioral health action and child abuse plan.

ALTERNATIVES

LFC suggested the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Task Force be convened as a subcommittee of the governor-appointed ELAC based on CYFD's proposal to ensure better coordination of effort to avoid duplication.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT ENACTING THE BILL

The Administrative Office of the District Attorneys stated the task force has worked for two years to create an early childhood behavioral health and child abuse prevention plans, and believes stopping its work could prevent the ability of the task force to implement its plans.

RELATED

SM23 requests CYFD to convene a task force to study communication and coordination efforts among early childhood service providers.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Department of Health
- Legislative Education Study Committee Files
- Legislative Finance Committee

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