

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website (www.nmlegis.gov). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018

Bill Number	<u>HB97/aHHSC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Dow</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.209404.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HHHC/HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Early Learning Advisory Council Changes</u>		
Analyst	<u>McCorquodale</u>	Original Date	<u>1/30/18</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/7/18</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of HHSC Amendment

The Health and Human Services Amendment to HB97 (HB97/aHHSC) adds a comma after “child care” on page 7, line 20, because child care and home visiting are separate programs.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill (HB97) changes the terms for the members of the State Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC); HB97 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

HB97/aHHSC does not have an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB97/aHHSC 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, 2019, 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.

HB97/aHHSC adds new language requiring ELAC to make recommendations to CYFD and the Legislature on: statewide coordination of early childhood care and education; delineating and addressing 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, HB97/aHHSC repeals ELAC’s termination date of July 1, 2018 and extends the council’s sunset date to July 1, 2024. ELAC will continue to operate until July 1, 2024 when the sunset expires.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are a broad range of structures used for early childhood governance. Build Initiative, an organization that helps state leaders develop a comprehensive system of early childhood programs, outlines three governance models of early childhood programs: a coordinated governance model, consolidated governance model, and the creation of a new agency model.

The coordinated governance model “places authority and accountability for early childhood programs and services across multiple public agencies.” New Mexico falls into this category and often seeks to improve coordination and collaboration among agencies that provide early childhood services. Many states with this model rely on a children’s cabinet or special task force established by their governors to encourage coordinated early childhood governance such as New Mexico’s ELAC. Other states like Connecticut, Nebraska, and Wisconsin have similar early childhood program structures.

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 indicated programs delivered to young children have different designs and purposes and must account for a combination of federal and state funds and requirements. A well-built structure of early childhood programs is a crucial step in promoting high-quality early childhood programs and services.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

CMC/rab