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

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SM39</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Soules</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.209326.2</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SRC/SEC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Study Needs for School Libraries</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Herz</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/30/18</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 39 (SM39) requests the Public Education Department (PED) to assist the New Mexico Libraries Association and the Libraries Transform New Mexico steering committee to conduct an assessment of school libraries and school librarians in New Mexico public schools. The memorial requests that PED present the findings and recommendations of the assessment to the LESC by October 1, 2018.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Memorials do not contain appropriations.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The last statewide study of the number and impact of school libraries was conducted in 2002. Numerous research studies from across the country show that students who attend schools with certified teacher-librarians and high-quality library facilities perform better on standardized tests and are more likely to graduate. These findings endure after controlling for school size and income level of students. However, many of these studies also found that students who live in poverty are the least likely to have access to a quality school library.

According to the 2016 New Mexico Libraries Assessment from the New Mexico Library Foundation, over 90 percent of school libraries in the state experienced flat or declining funding. Meanwhile, nine out of 10 school libraries also reported flat or increasing demand for materials. One in five school libraries does not offer wireless internet, while nearly half do not have broadband internet access. Additionally, one in three school librarians in the state lack standard credentialing.

In a 2016 survey of school library officials, the most commonly reported challenges include lack of physical space in school buildings and other infrastructure deficiencies such as a lack of outlets. Also, school librarians report that school officials have increasingly used library space for

standardized testing purposes. Nearly one in four school librarians reported that their library was closed for more than 21 days due to standardized testing administration.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SM39 requests that PED assist in an assessment of school libraries, which could impose additional administrative and budget costs without additional funding.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

Will the assessment of school libraries include the possibility of sharing library facilities between public schools or between public schools and other public organizations (e.g. public libraries)?

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**MPH/rab**