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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**55th Legislature, 1st Session, 2021**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>HB25</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Romero, GA</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.218427.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>HEC/HSEIC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>LESC Study of Public &amp; Post-Secondary Ed</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Hathaway</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/21/21</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>1/26/21</u>

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**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 25 (HB25) expands the scope of work of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) to include the study of postsecondary education in New Mexico.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This bill does not contain an appropriation.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Currently, Section 2-10-3 NMSA 1978 (Laws 1971, Chapter 287) restricts LESC from studies related to postsecondary education, other than for teacher preparation programs offered at postsecondary institutions, and from replicating studies conducted by the Institutional Finance Division of the Higher Education Department (HED).

Despite postsecondary education comprising 12 percent of general fund appropriations, there is not an interim legislative committee tasked with the study of postsecondary education in New Mexico. The Legislative Finance Committee provides fiscal analysis related to postsecondary education, and some policy guidance in the form of performance measures and program evaluations. The LESC hears testimony and provides analysis on public school subject matters that overlap with postsecondary education such as dual credit, advanced placement (AP) coursework, educator preparation, and college readiness. HED has oversight responsibilities for public and private postsecondary educational institutions operating within the state (see Sections 21-2-3 and 21-1-26 NMSA 1978). This bill would increase the scope of the LESC's work to include the entire pipeline of public education, providing consistent analysis across all educational matters.

During the legislative session, LESC staff assist the standing education committees of the two houses, as well as other committees, by providing analyses of public school-related legislation

under consideration and by supplying technical support in the development of public school support appropriations. In this role, staff members prepare expository, statistical, and graphic analyses of both financial and programmatic aspects of the New Mexico educational system. Staff members also assist individual legislators in the initial stages of drafting legislation and help legislators analyze potential advantages and disadvantages of measures under consideration.

Legislative members are charged with hearing bills on all postsecondary matters, but may not currently hear about these issues during the interim. With current limitations on LESC authority to study higher education, LESC staff is not always well versed in postsecondary education matters and lacks the ability to fully staff and support members during the legislative session. This creates a gap in members' understanding of many higher education topics and also limits staff support available to them when they must hear bills on postsecondary matters.

### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

This bill is identical to Senate Bill 195 from the 2017 legislative session, which passed in the Senate but did not receive a hearing in the House Education Committee. It is also identical to House Bill 469 from the 2015 legislative session, which passed unanimously in the House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate Education Committee.

Created in 1965 as a permanent bipartisan, bicameral interim committee of the New Mexico Legislature, the LESC:

- conducts a continuing study of education in New Mexico, the laws governing such education and the policies and costs of the New Mexico educational system, including the training of certified teaching personnel in postsecondary institutions;
- recommends changes in laws relating to education; and
- makes a full report of its findings and recommendations.

The LESC is composed of 31 legislators (10 voting, 21 advisory) appointed to provide proportionate representation from both houses and both political parties. Assisted by a permanent staff, the committee meets regularly during the interim to study education issues. To fulfill its statutory responsibilities, the LESC attempts to provide all legislators with objective information pertaining to New Mexico public schools as well as staying current with state and national education trends.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**JKH/mb**