

LFC Requester:	Travis Dulany
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2017 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply: Date 2/19/17
Original **Amendment** **Bill No:** HB340
Correction **Substitute**

Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Stephanie Garcia Richard
Representative Dennis J. Roch
Sponsor: Senator William P. Soules **Agency Code:** 924
Short Title: EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE **Person Writing** Matt Pahl
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18	FY19		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 340 requires the New Mexico Legislative Council and Governor to appoint members to an education strategic planning task force to develop a twenty-year plan for education in New Mexico from early childhood through graduation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are significant, and unaccounted for, fiscal implications associated with House Bill 340. There is no mention of the frequency of meetings; therefore, it is not possible to accurately predict the costs that would be incurred as part of the process at this time. These costs would be incurred by public members of the task force who would receive per diem and mileage and state/legislative agencies that must dedicate staff and travel time to support task force efforts. These costs could be reduced or eliminated should the Legislative Council apply for grants and/or receive monetary or in-kind donations to carry out its duties.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Governor Martinez has already laid out an ambitious vision of ensuring that at least 66 percent of working-age New Mexicans have a degree or post-high-school credential by 2030. In an effort to reach the goal, the Public Education Department has established k-12 goals that align with the Governor’s ultimate goal of attainment. Further, PED, through the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant, has aligned early childhood education systems with the Children Youth and Families Department. The alignment and synchronization of goals between early childhood education, k-12 education and higher education that currently exists accomplishes the goals of this potentially costly task force.

House Bill 340 only asks that the task force “analyze the impact of education on economic development in the state and the current and future professional occupational needs of employers.” There is no mechanism to ensure that the proposed changes that would come out of the task force lead to better alignment between our higher education/workforce preparation programs and the projected career opportunities for New Mexicans in the future, which is extremely critical if New Mexico is going to compete in the evolving 21st century economy.

HB340 proposes a 20-year strategic plan. Such a term in a strategic plan is impractical, and cannot account for the changes to education and our world over two decades. For example, the federal No Child Left Behind Act lasted less than 20 years (2001-2016), and had been changed

significantly due to waivers from the Executive branch. Further, advancements in technology and its use in the classroom change dramatically over the course of one decade, let alone two. This poses a significant challenge to creating a comprehensive and practicable strategic plan for 20 years.

Representation on the task force is limited in scope and is not organized in a way that will promote policy and program coherence in New Mexico, which stakeholders have consistently sought. Through arbitrary, rather than strategic, representation from stakeholders in the field, the task force could easily succumb to the political interests of task force members versus the interests of students and families.

House Bill 340 requires the Legislative Council Service, Legislative Education Study Committee, and Legislative Finance Committee to provide staff for the task force with the Public Education Department and Higher Education Department and other state agencies cooperating as needed. This runs counter to what would yield the best results for our students, teachers, schools, and districts as it is the mission, vision, expertise, and daily activities of staff in these Departments to deliver on the goals and activities that would be outlined in the final report; therefore, these state agencies, if the bill is enacted, should be responsible for the design and development of the strategic planning process with cooperation from the LSC, LESC, and LFC.

As mentioned in the Fiscal Impact Report, this task force is duplicative of several other workgroups in the state. There are already a number of tangential groups that meet to discuss various issues, such as early learning and data systems, that would run in parallel to this effort and, potentially, contradict these efforts. In addition to those support or advisory groups, one of the Public Education Commission's statutorily defined responsibilities is to advise the Public Education Department on matters relating to policy. As seen previously, this process has been chaotic and has not led to positive outcomes for kids. There is no reason to believe that a new task force, empowered in a similar vein to the PEC, will accomplish this task.

The Public Education Department has already convened thousands of stakeholders throughout the state for both traditional public and public charter schools, including, but not limited to, teachers, principals, superintendents, students, families, the legislature and business community members. These stakeholders have provided invaluable input into New Mexico's ESEA waiver and Every Student Succeeds Act application and will continue to do so in the future. Through the stakeholder engagement activities, the PED engaged with 1,827 stakeholders, in 25 communities. The stakeholder engagement also met with 50 tribal leaders and representatives. The findings from these stakeholder engagements are publicly available on the Department's website.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Department will continue to meet its statutory requirement of determining policy and operation of public schools throughout New Mexico.