

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

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**57th Legislature, 1st Session, 2025**

**Bill Number** HB193      **Sponsor** Romero, GA; Baca; Garratt; Mirabal Moya; Lara  
**Tracking Number** .229887.1      **Committee Referrals** HEC/HGEIC;SRC/SEC  
**Short Title** Study Public Education System  
**Analyst** Hathaway      **Original Date** 1/30/2025  
**Last Updated** 2/28/2025

---

---

**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 193 (HB193) would expand the scope of work of LESL to include the study of New Mexico's entire public educational system.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

HB193 does not contain an appropriation.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Current law (Section 2-10-3 NMSA 1978) limits LESL's engagement in studies related to early childhood education and higher 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). HB193 would expand the scope of the LESL's work to include the entirety of public education, providing consistent analysis across all educational matters, from early childhood through the state's higher education system.

A comprehensive view of the education system is important to connect early childhood readiness to long-term student success. LESL [studied](#) the role of long-term and strategic educational planning during the 2024 interim, finding the state has invested in many programs in recent years (early childhood, literacy, high school reforms, educator workforce supports, among others), but there is not an existing legislative committee to thoroughly study all of these matters in a consistent and connected way. Expanding the study of all public education to LESL could allow for a more robust understanding of the state's entire education system.

Despite early childhood comprising about [3 percent](#) of all Section 4 general fund appropriations, and higher education comprising about [13 percent](#) of all Section 4 general fund appropriations, there is not an interim legislative committee tasked with the comprehensive study of either early

childhood or higher education in New Mexico. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) provides fiscal analysis related to early childhood and higher education, and some policy guidance in the form of performance measures and program evaluations. LESC hears testimony and provides analysis on public school subject matters that overlap with early childhood and higher education, such as prekindergarten, dual credit, educator preparation, college and career readiness, and data system interoperability.

The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) has oversight responsibilities for early childhood education and care services within the state (see Sections 9-29-1 NMSA 1978 through 9-29-12 NMSA 1978). HED also has oversight responsibilities for public and private postsecondary educational institutions operating within the state (see Sections 21-2-3 NMSA 1978 and 21-1-26 NMSA 1978).

Legislators are responsible for hearing bills on all educational matters but may not currently hear about these issues thoroughly during the interim. With current limitations on LESC authority to study public kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) education, LESC staff is limited in its ability to incorporate early childhood or higher education matters into its interim research agenda. Further, LESC staff lacks the authority to regularly gather relevant data from ECECD or HED and cannot always fully support legislators' research and policy needs during the legislative session as a result.

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HB193 is nearly identical to House Bill 216 from the 2023 legislative session and House Bill 25 from the 2021 legislative session, both of which were passed by the Legislature, but vetoed by the governor. HB193 is also nearly 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, as well as 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 includes 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 provides all legislators with objective information pertaining to New Mexico public schools as well as staying current with state and national education trends.

During the legislative session, LESC staff assist the standing education committees of the two chambers, 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 entire New Mexico educational system.

Staff members also assist individual legislators in drafting legislation, researching education topics, and analyzing potential advantages and disadvantages of measures under consideration.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**JKH/tb/mca**