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SENATE BILL 73

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy M. Keller

AN ACT

CREATING A JOINT INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE CREATED--
TERMINATION.--The "higher education study committee" is created
as a joint interim legislative committee. The committee shall
function from the date of its appointment until the first day
of December prior to the first session of the fiftieth
legislature.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--

A. The higher education study committee shall be
composed of eight members. The New Mexico legislative council
shall appoint four members from the house of representatives
and four members from the senate. At the time of making the

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1 appointment, the legislative council shall designate the chair
2 and vice chair of the committee.

3 B. Members shall be appointed from each house so as
4 to give the two major political parties in each house the same
5 proportionate representation on the committee as prevails in
6 each house; however, in no event shall either party have less
7 than one member from each house on the committee. At the
8 request of the committee chair, members may be removed from the
9 committee by the New Mexico legislative council for
10 nonattendance according to council policy. Vacancies on the
11 committee, however caused, may be filled by the legislative
12 council, or the legislative council may reduce the size of the
13 committee by not making replacement appointments and, in such
14 case, need not readjust party representation.

15 C. No action shall be taken by the committee if a
16 majority of the total membership from either house on the
17 committee rejects such action.

18 Section 3. DUTIES.--

19 A. After its appointment, the higher education
20 study committee shall hold one organizational meeting to
21 develop a work plan and budget for the ensuing interim. The
22 work plan and budget shall be submitted to the New Mexico
23 legislative council for approval.

24 B. Upon approval of the work plan and budget by the
25 legislative council, the committee shall examine the statutes,

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1 constitutional provisions, regulations and court decisions
2 governing the state institutions of higher learning created in
3 Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico,
4 including:

5 (1) organizational, governance and
6 administrative structures and how they affect academic
7 programming and the mission of the institution;

8 (2) funding, budgeting and resource
9 allocation;

10 (3) administrative and faculty compensation,
11 including salaries and benefits;

12 (4) percentage of faculty that are tenure
13 track faculty and faculty-student ratios;

14 (5) personnel development and promotion
15 policies;

16 (6) academic, research and administrative
17 recruitment; and

18 (7) inter-institutional coordination.

19 C. The committee shall request the assistance of
20 the higher education department in its study.

21 D. The committee shall recommend legislation or
22 changes, if any are found to be necessary, to the first session
23 of the fiftieth legislature.

24 Section 4. SUBCOMMITTEES.--Subcommittees shall be created
25 only by majority vote of all members appointed to the higher

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1 education study committee and with the prior approval of the
2 New Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee shall be
3 composed of at least one member from the senate and one member
4 from the house of representatives, and at least one member of
5 the minority party shall be a member of the subcommittee. All
6 meetings and expenditures of a subcommittee shall be approved
7 by the full committee in advance of such meeting or
8 expenditure, and the approval shall be shown in the minutes of
9 the committee.

10 Section 5. REPORT.--The higher education study committee
11 shall make a report of its findings and recommendations for the
12 consideration of the first session of the fiftieth legislature.
13 The report and suggested legislation shall be made available to
14 the New Mexico legislative council on or before December 15
15 preceding that session.

16 Section 6. STAFF.--The staff for the higher education
17 study committee shall be provided by the legislative council
18 service.

19 Section 7. APPROPRIATION.--Fifteen thousand dollars
20 (\$15,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
21 legislative council service for expenditure in fiscal year 2011
22 for the purpose of reimbursing the per diem and mileage
23 expenses of the higher education study committee. Any
24 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
25 fiscal year 2011 shall revert to the general fund. Payments

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1 from the appropriation shall be made upon vouchers signed by
2 the director of the legislative council service or the
3 director's authorized representative.

4 Section 8. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
5 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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