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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/09

SPONSOR Steinborn LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 134

SHORT TITLE NMSU Science, Math & Aerospace Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)  
 Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 134 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to support the Science, Engineering, Mathematics And Aerospace Academy to improve student achievement and increase participation statewide.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was submitted by NMSU to the HED for review in the amount of \$265,700 dollars. HB134 represents an increase of \$200,100 to the existing recurring General Fund appropriation of \$65,600. The Department would have a neutral recommendation for the project for FY10, if the State's fiscal picture improved.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

With respect to special projects, higher education institutions advanced 114 proposals for new projects and expansions at a total general fund cost of \$54 million during the HED budget request process in fall 2008.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

The HED notes that:

The Southern New Mexico Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SNM SEMAA) has existed six years. It engages underrepresented youth in the fields of Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Technology (STEM) who attend the Gadsden, Las Cruces and Hatch Public Schools. The program is ongoing from student enrollment until high school graduation. It provides academic enrichment and career awareness programs. Participants from K-12 attend an eight week after-school program for 2-2 1/2 hrs per week available year round. The curriculum is science, engineering, and mathematics with an overarching theme of aerospace education.

There are also one-week summer camps for middle school students held at the NMSU Aerospace Engineering Laboratory. 120-140 teachers are involved in SEMAA and receive professional development that fosters a student inquiry approach. The student/teacher ratio is 15-20/1. More than 300 pre-service teachers or engineering students participate in the K-12 program.

NMSU states that the combination of school based curriculum enhancements, university organized enrichment activities, and parent outreach work seamlessly with the others as a comprehensive program to improve student achievement and increase participation in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

GH/svb