

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 294

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .196357.1

Short Title: NM Robotics Camp

Sponsor(s): Senator John Pinto

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 13, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 294 makes an appropriation to fund a New Mexico robotics camp.

Fiscal Impact:

\$60,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Indian Education Division at the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to PED, SB 294 does not indicate the specific student population, grade levels, schools, or program parameters that would be targeted by the robotics camp.

Background:

According to the Legislative Finance Committee's analysis of a similar bill, a study by Brandies University comparing students engaged in contextual learning programs, such as robotics, to a group of students with comparable backgrounds and achievements in high school math and science, reports that students engaged in contextual learning programs are:

- significantly more likely to attend college;
- twice as likely to major in science and engineering;
- ten times more likely to have had an apprenticeship, internship or co-op, in their college freshman year; and
- more than twice as likely to expect to have a science- or technology-related career after college.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 138 *ENMU Robot Workshops & Competition*

SB 102 *Statewide Robot Workshops & Competition*