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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo,Ca **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/18/14
LAST UPDATED 01/21/14 **HB** 18

SHORT TITLE UNM Space Technology Consortium **SB** _____

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$60.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total			\$160.0	\$220.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 N.M. Space Grant Consortium (www.nmspacegrant.com)

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 University of New Mexico (UNM)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 18 appropriates \$60 thousand from the general fund to UNM to support the space technology consortium.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$60 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

UNM noted that funding would support a space technology consortium to be based at the university's Configurable Space Microsystems Innovations and Applications Center. As a start-up project in FY15, LFC staff estimate an additional \$100 thousand may be required for staffing and other operating support for the consortium in FY16.

The HED did not review this project as part of its annual budget process for research and special projects. As such, the project was not reviewed by the department, Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), or Legislative Finance Committee (LFC).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

No agency or institutional response reported a significant issue with this bill.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not include or affect existing performance measures for UNM. If this program receives funding, reporting would be required as part of the Higher Education Department's annual budget review process for research and public service projects.

RELATIONSHIP

Without additional information about the proposed space technology consortium, it is unclear whether the consortium would complement or supplant an existing New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSFC).

NMSU is the lead institution for the NMSGC, which includes both private industry partners and institutional partners, including UNM, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, NMSU Dona Ana Community College, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) administers the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, of which NMSGC is a member.

ALTERNATIVES

If additional information shows the proposed space technology consortium would duplicate the program and efforts of the NMSGC, an appropriation could be made to the existing entity.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Legislators may seek additional information on the space technology consortium's proposed purpose, scope of activities, and strategic plan.

THT/ds