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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Diamond ORIGINAL DATE 02/17/21  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE ENMU Robotics Program SB 335  
ANALYST Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 335 (SB335) appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to Eastern New Mexico University to provide New Mexico teachers and students (K-12) opportunities to apply coding strategies with simulated robots to complete robot challenges for international competition.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY22 shall revert to the general fund.

ENMU did not submit this request to NMHED for possible incorporation into the NMHED higher education comprehensive funding recommendation. NMHED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the NMHED funding recommendation. NMHED submitted its higher education funding recommendation to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) on November 1 as is required by statute. (Section 9-25-9 NMSA

1978)

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Digital learning platforms deliver learning experiences that enable students to actively engage with educational content. Educators use digital learning platforms as part of their instruction to make learning more interesting and interactive for students and to offer lessons that can be personalized for each learner.

ENMU, in its analysis of the bill, states that the university partners with Inquiry Facilitators, an organization who founded a K-12 competition for robotics games. Inquiry Facilitators is organized as a domestic nonprofit entity in New Mexico. Through a contractual arrangement, ENMU should be requiring a specific level of performance from its partner for a specific level of funding. The bill does not address how much funding is to be used by ENMU or by a partner, nor a minimum level of student or teacher training.

MFV/al/rl