

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 20

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: Santa Fe Teacher Science Instruction

Sponsor(s): Representatives Peter Wirth and Jim R. Trujillo

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 18, 2007

Bill Summary:

HB 20 appropriates funds to PED to contract with a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving science education in Santa Fe to provide teacher training and in-class mentors and integrate hands-on science techniques into standard curricula.

Fiscal Impact:

\$60,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. HB 20 contains a reversion clause.

The Executive Budget Recommendation includes \$60,000 for this program.

Issues:

HB 20, according to the PED bill analysis, funds workshops in a program offered by the Santa Fe Science Initiative (SFSI), whose mission is to provide the best possible science instruction for elementary students and teachers in Santa Fe. SFSI provides students with hands-on, inquiry-based science programming (supported by the National Science Resources Center, NSRC) while giving teachers on-going professional development, materials, and mentor support. SFSI states that participation in the program helps teachers build:

- confidence in teaching science;
- effective strategies for integrating literacy and math curricula with science; and
- experience using hands-on activities alongside textbooks.

During the 2005 interim, the LESC heard a presentation of the recommendations of a three-day New Mexico Partnership for Mathematics & Science Education Town Hall, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory, NASA, the US Department of Education, and the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions to focus attention on mathematics and science education needs for the 21st century economy. Testimony emphasized the need for a comprehensive, on-going “systems” approach to improving mathematics and science learning in New Mexico schools, and summarized eight recommendations, which addressed areas of need in New Mexico public schools. For example, teachers need comprehensive, sequential, on-going professional development to develop and refine the content knowledge they need to effectively teach mathematics and science to all students. Teachers also need sufficient funding and time to participate in these programs, including dedicated time within the school day. In addition, highly visible and on-going public awareness programs are needed to increase public interest and enthusiasm for science and mathematics.

The FY 08 public school support recommendations from the LESC and the Legislative Finance Committee include \$3.0 million in recurring funds for summer reading, math and science institutes for teacher professional development. The Executive recommends \$2.0 million.

Also, the LESC endorsed HB 220, the *Mathematics and Science Education Act*, which statutorily creates a Mathematics and Science Bureau and a Mathematics and Science Proficiency Fund at PED.

Related Bills:

HB 45 *NM Tech Summer Science Program*

HB 109 *NMSU Science, Technology and Math Outreach*

HB 111 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach Program*

HB 220 *Mathematics and Science Education Act*

SB 75 *NM Tech Summer Science Program*

SB 253 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach*