

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 111

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: Science Education & Teacher Outreach Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Joni Marie Gutierrez and Others

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 19, 2007

Bill Summary:

HB 111 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to pay for a science education enhancement and kindergarten through grade twelve teacher outreach program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. HB 111 contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department bill analysis, HB 111 will provide NMSU with matching money for a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute intended to improve science education at NMSU and in K-12 schools throughout the state of New Mexico. The program funded by HB 111 includes an undergraduate research scholars' program and biology laboratory that will travel to rural high schools. The appropriation in HB 111 will fund a two-day refresher course for teachers of biology, astronomy, geology, physics and chemistry; fund two-week courses for teachers working on a Master of Arts degree in Teaching science; provide salaries for peer leaders who assist in teaching introductory biology classes at NMSU; and partially support the salary for the administrator of the program.

- During the 2006 interim, the LESC heard testimony from a variety of sources about the preparation and professional development of New Mexico's educators, including the preparation of pre-service teachers, professional development, teacher mentorship programs and in-service programs for teachers.
- The Public Education Department analysis of HB 111 cites a need for improvement in students' achievement in science and preparation for higher education, and that the activities funded by this legislation will contribute to this improvement by providing teachers with an improved science content knowledge.
- NMSU lists the program funded by HB 111 as one of its Board of Regent approved legislative priorities for school year 2007-2008.

Related Bills:

HB 54 *NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program*

HB 109 *NMSU Science, Technology & Math Outreach*

SB 24 *NMSU Science, Technology & Math Program*

SB 29 *Science Education and Teacher Outreach Program* (identical)

SB 40 *NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program*

SB 253 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach*