

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 147

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: Minority Pre-College Student Math & Sciences

Sponsor(s): Representative Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert and Others

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 24, 2007

Bill Summary:

HB 147 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) to enhance pre-college science and mathematics skills and conduct a summer mathematics and science camp for minority students through the University of New Mexico's College of Engineering special programs.

Fiscal Impact:

\$200,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. HB 147 contains a reversion clause.

During the 2006 legislative session, \$170,800 was appropriated to the Board of Regents of UNM for the program in HB 147.

Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED) analysis, the appropriation in HB 147 funds the Minority Engineering Program (MEP) at the UNM College of Engineering. MEP recruits underrepresented groups of minorities and women from New Mexico high schools into the academic disciplines of math, science, and engineering. The services provided include academic support and advisement, scholarships, cooperatives, internships, and college planning.

The Public Education Department's bill analysis states that the program funded by HB 147 serves 200 high school students with Saturday educational enrichment and a six-week summer camp where students are inspired by expert speakers, are motivated to participate in fairs, conferences, and competitions and are mentored by graduate students in the fields of math and science.

The quality of mathematics and science education and the level of student participation and interest in these subjects have become a matter of national concern, as evidenced by the report prepared by the National Academy of Sciences, *Rising above the Gathering Storm*, which was commissioned to determine policy recommendations for ensuring America's competitiveness in the future. The primary recommendation made in the report was to increase America's talent pool by improving K-12 science and mathematics education, recruiting and training more teachers, and increasing the number of students taking advanced placement mathematics and science courses.

Related Bills:

HB 45 *NM Tech Summer Science Program*

SB 75 *NM Tech Summer Science Program*