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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Tripp ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/2007
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 792
SHORT TITLE NM Tech Science & Engineering Fair SB _____
ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 131, HB 367, & HB 225.

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 792 appropriates \$75,000 from the General Fund to the NM Tech Regents for expenditure in FY 2008 to support the Science and Engineering Fair and the Science Olympiad.

If the intent is to use this appropriation to support the 2007 Science and Engineering Fair, the Science Olympiad, or International Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque (May 2007), the bill should have an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

The Higher Education Department indicates this \$75,000 appropriation will be used for administration costs and outreach for the 2007 International Science Fair to be held in Albuquerque.

There is nothing in the bill to indicate usage of the funds.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair (NMSEF) is a non-profit program supported by the State of New Mexico and NM Tech. The Fair is a member of the New Mexico Activities Association and is bound by the rules governing that organization. Financial support for the Fair comes from the State of New Mexico, NM Tech, donations from a number of foundations, corporate and individual donors as well as registration fees.

The first New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair was held in 1953 at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, NM, three years after the first National Science Fair was organized by Science Service. NMSEF accepts the top exhibits from the six regional science fairs in the state. It is held each April on the campus of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro. Its objectives are to recognize and reward excellence in science, mathematics, and engineering projects carried out by junior high and high school students from throughout the state. Winners at the state level compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) held in a major city every May. The 2007 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Science Olympiad is a national, non-profit, tax-exempt organization, devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition of outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. These goals are achieved by participation in Science Olympiad tournaments, incorporating Science Olympiad into classroom curriculum and attending teacher-training institutes.

The New Mexico Science Olympiad began in 1987 and is hosted each year by NM Tech. This academic interscholastic competition consists of over 32 individual and team events for which students prepare during the school year. Science Olympiad focuses on three areas of science education: science concepts/knowledge, science processes/thinking skills, and science application/technology. The New Mexico Science Olympiad involves over 3,000 students from all areas of New Mexico. The State Competition will be held on February 24, 2007.

A request for an additional \$75,300 was submitted by NM Tech to the HED for review. The Department's recommendation for FY08 is a continuance of the FY07 recurring funding in the amount of \$362,500.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 131, HB 367, and HB 225 – appropriate \$1,200,000 for expenditure in FY 2007 and FY 2008 for “a science and engineering fair in the city of Albuquerque.”

The General Appropriation Act (HB 7/SB 2) includes an appropriation of \$362,500 to NM Tech for the Science and Engineering Fair.

BM/sb