

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/24/08

SPONSOR Garcia, MJ LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program SB 157

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU)  
 New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)  
 New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 157 appropriates \$300 thousand from the General Fund to NMSU in FY09 to provide continued funding for the New Mexico Space Consortium and Outreach Program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the General Fund.

NMSU reports that SB157 funds will be used to leverage the already stable congressional funding level of approximately \$550 thousand. Stable funding enables a base from which to offer programs throughout the state. SB157 will assist in fulfilling the 100% mandatory matching funds requirement. The funding primarily supports faculty salaries and student financial aid. Tuition and fees are covered as well as stipends for summer internships which give students opportunities to stay connected with faculty and build their careers via research projects. SB157 will enable more expansion at postsecondary institutions that began in FY08.

This request was not submitted by NMSU to the NMHED for review. The NMHED and Legislative Finance Committee funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$102 thousand for the New Mexico Space Consortium and Outreach Program; and, \$50 thousand for the New Mexico Space Consortium Grant for a total of \$152 thousand for expenditure in FY09.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMSU will use the funds to increase the number of students entering and retained in higher education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and education (STEM). NMSU is the lead institution for the New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSGC); a statewide network of universities, colleges, industry, museums, federal, state, and local agencies. In 1989, NMSGC became a member of the congressionally funded National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program which is administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NMSU reports that over 61,822 New Mexico citizens participated in NMSGC programs in 2002-2006. The requested funds will support continuation of program results listed below:

- 430 students received scholarships in science, technology, engineering, math, and education, including:
  - 194 female and 236 male students
  - 290 under-represented minority and 140 non-minority students
  - 330 undergraduate and 100 graduate students
- 6,512 students and faculty who participated in higher education programs
- 1,432 students and teachers who participated in pre-college programs, including over 5,000 students involved in student rocket launches at the X Prize Cup funded by NMSGC
- 53,310 New Mexicans who participated in public outreach programs
- 18 courses were created through NMSGC support
- 10 Reduced Gravity flights designed and flown by undergraduate students from UNM, NMSU, NMIM&T, and SJCC
- 290 research/teaching papers were published by faculty and students as a result of NMSGC support
- 35 research projects were funded by NMSGC
- Over 600 people have attended the International Symposia on Personal Spaceflight, co-chaired by NMSGC and held in conjunction with the X PRIZE Cup.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

PED reports that the bill supports Goal 1 of the Department's *A Strategic Action Plan for Advancing Math and Science Education in New Mexico 2007-2010*: "Increase student interest, participation and achievement in math and science".

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMSU assumes the University will be able to manage these funds and the program with existing staff.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Retention of women and minority students in our programs throughout the state has led to recognition by NASA, and the National Science Foundation as exemplary. New Mexico’s population is made up of 53% underrepresented minorities. NMSGC scholarship recipients are 67% underrepresented minorities.

The New Mexico Department of Labor projected an annual need to fill more than 1,000 new STEM jobs. The NMSGC promotes education in these fields and plans strategies to compete with the global marketplace.

Employment Prospects for Selected Fields New Mexico Department of Labor, 2002-2012		
Occupational Title	% Change	Annual Openings
Computer Specialists . . . . .	37.6%	650
Mathematical Scientists . . . . .	2.9%	20
Engineers . . . . .	5.9%	310
Life Scientists . . . . .	7.7%	40
Physical Scientists . . . . .	6.8%	130
Total annual entrants into STEM workforce . . . . .		1150

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

NMHED stresses that without state funding and support, NMSGC would be at risk of losing the federal allocation because of the matching funds requirement.

AHO/bb