

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 139

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .183765.1

Short Title: NM Tech Summer Science Program

Sponsor(s): Senators Cynthia Nava and Mary Jane M. García

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

Date: February 4, 2011

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

SB 139 makes an appropriation to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT) to support the Summer Science Program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at NMIMT for FY 12. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

HB 3, the *Education Appropriation Act*, includes an appropriation of \$50,000 to NMIMT for the Summer Science Program.

Fiscal Issues:

The Higher Education Department (HED) analysis notes that:

- the Summer Science Program fee of \$3,950 includes tuition, room and board, local transportation, and supplies;
- New Mexico students can apply for a waiver of the fee, and that
- the \$50,000 state appropriation covers approximately eight New Mexico students ages 15-18 to attend the program.

Background:

According to the bill analysis from HED:

- the curriculum for the Summer Science Program is organized around a central research project;
- students obtain in-depth, hands-on experience with advanced topics in the physical sciences, mathematics, and computer sciences through a combination of lectures, guest speakers, field trips, and research work; and
- at the end of six weeks, each student will have had many hours of experience with the collection, measurement, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of scientific data.

HED reports that Summer Science Program participants are diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity, citizenship, socioeconomic status, and national origin. Young women and traditionally underrepresented minority students are especially encouraged to apply.

The Legislative Education Study Committee has heard testimony from the Summer Science Program during multiple interims, most recently in 2011.

Related Bills:

SB 138 *Minority Math & Science Achievement Program*