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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/21/11

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Minority Math & Science Achievement Program SB 138

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 138 appropriates 100 thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department for the minority mathematics, engineering and science achievement program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of 100 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2012 shall revert to the General Fund.

The HED notes:

This bill does not indicate whether this is a new single line item appropriation or is an additional funding request for existing recurring funding for the New Mexico Math, Engineering, Science and Achievement Program (MESA) that flows thru NMHED to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT).

A request was submitted by NMIMT to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review for NM MESA in the amount of \$1,384,500 dollars. NM MESA's total

General Fund allocation for fiscal year 2011 includes \$990,500 thru NMHED for NMIMT and \$135,000 directly to NMIMT for a minority mathematics, engineering and science program.

NMHED's funding request for higher education from November 2010 recommended a 3% reduction for all existing line item appropriations for FY12.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states:

New Mexico MESA is a non-profit organization providing a pre-college program that prepares students for postsecondary majors and subsequent careers in mathematics, engineering, science, and other technology-related fields. New Mexico MESA is part of a nationwide initiative that promotes educational enrichment for pre-college students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups.

Through seven regional offices (two in Albuquerque and one each in Espanola, Las Vegas, Gallup, Las Cruces, and Roswell), New Mexico MESA supports student programs in middle and high schools throughout the state. A teacher (typically a math or science teacher) from the school administers each school program. Through memoranda of understanding, school districts pay participating teachers \$2,000 per year and provide up to nine release days, while MESA covers the costs for teachers' food, transportation, and supplies to participate in activities, events, and competitions.

These programs provide a variety of enriched math, science, and engineering activities, including field trips, speakers, workshops, regional and statewide academic competitions, community service and leadership development projects. NMHED provides fiscal oversight for the program, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology acts as the fiscal agent for New Mexico MESA.

According to testimony before the Legislative Education Study Committee in 2010, NM MESA received 79 percent of its funding from the Legislature, 14 percent from federal agencies, and the balance from donations from corporations and foundations. The testimony also noted that NM MESA serves over 5,000 students in 135 schools in 39 school districts and one pueblo. Hispanic students account for 61 percent of NM MESA students, 12 percent are Native American, two percent are African-American, and 25 percent are other ethnicities. According to the testimony, 82 percent of past participants had enrolled in college, and 55 percent of those graduated. Of those who graduated, 88 percent earned a baccalaureate degree or higher in engineering, education, or business.

NM MESA is a founding member of MESA USA; a partnership of eight states that have joined together to support disadvantaged and underrepresented students to achieve academically in math, science, and engineering. The programs are based on a common co-curricular academic enrichment model that includes academic planning, community service, family involvement, academic enrichment, hands-on engineering activities, career advising, field trips, competitions and workshops.