

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 105

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .190018.1

**Short Title:** Santa Fe Smart & Micro Grid Programs

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Peter Wirth

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 5, 2013

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**FOR THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Bill Summary:**

SB 105 makes an appropriation for the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) Training Center Corporation (TCC) to design and develop:

- a smart grid workforce training program;
- a micro grid innovation laboratory;
- research park; and
- testing center.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$1.0 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for the SFCC-TCC for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

A Santa Fe Innovation Park (SFIP) website notes that micro grids are modern, small-scale versions of the centralized electricity system. They achieve specific local goals, such as:

- reliable delivery of electricity;
- carbon emission reduction;
- diversification of energy sources; and
- cost reduction.

SFIP further states that like the traditional bulk power grid, smart micro grids generate, distribute, and regulate the flow of electricity to consumers, but do so locally. Smart micro grids are an ideal way to integrate renewable resources on the community level and allow for customer participation in the electricity enterprise. They can connect and disconnect from the main grid as desired. Many experts believe micro grids are the future of the electric power system due to their many advantages.

**Background:**

According to the SFCC website, the college created the TCC in the spring of 2005 in order to:

- form partnerships with businesses;
- create cooperative technological ventures to foster local economic development and jobs; and
- cooperatively market educational programs with businesses and other organizations.

Projects previously implemented by the TCC include:

- Film Center;
- Biomass Production and Distribution System; and
- Entrepreneurship Training Program.

**Committee Referrals:**

SCONC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

*HB 267 Utility Energy Efficiency & Load Management*  
*HJM 8 Review Electric Transmission Capacity*