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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, CH./Bash/
Ferrary/Lara **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/8/19
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 475

SHORT TITLE Portable Planetarium Learning Experience **SB** _____

ANALYST Liu/Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$138.3	\$0.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Cultural Affairs Department (DCA)

No Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Other Responses

Santa Fe Children’s Museum (SFCM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 475 appropriates \$138.3 thousand from the general fund to PED for the purpose of contracting a nonprofit organization to provide a bilingual science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) experience within a portable planetarium for public school students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill makes an appropriation of \$138.3 thousand to PED for contractual services in FY20 that will be a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

DCA notes portable planetariums can cost between \$30 thousand to \$40 thousand. Additional

costs may include personnel and travel expenses. SFCM currently provides the Stargazer program, a bilingual portable planetarium learning experience, to approximately 7,000 students each year in public schools within a 100 mile radius of Santa Fe. The program operates 2 days a week. SFCM provided the following cost estimates for scaling up the Stargazer program:

STARGAZER PROGRAM	Current Program	Potential Expansion: Northern New Mexico	Potential Expansion: Statewide
Students Served	7,000	12,000	20,000
Program FTE	1.0	2.0	3.0
Expenditures			
Instruction	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Administration	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
Travel and Lodging	\$5,000	\$10,500	\$25,000
Insurance	\$750	\$1,250	\$2,000
Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Maintenance	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Total Expenditures	\$69,750	\$138,250	\$219,500

Source: Sante Fe Children's Museum

The executive and LFC FY20 budget recommendations for public schools include \$6 million and \$3 million, respectively, for STEM and arts (STEAM) initiatives, which could be used to support this type of programming.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A portable planetarium is an inflatable dome-shaped room in which images are projected onto the ceiling. Taking *Starlab* models as examples, a planetarium can hold 27 to 56 people at a time. The smallest model needs 21-square feet to be set up while the largest requires 27-square feet. The planetarium cannot be set up outside.

DCA states depending on the area the portable planetarium would cover, this program would augment core programs at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and the portable planetarium program at Space History Museum in Alamogordo, bringing additional astronomy programs to rural areas of the state. The planetarium located at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science saw over 8,000 students and over 25 thousand attendees overall in the last 12 months. The Space History Museum's planetarium in Alamogordo saw 22.6 thousand visitors over the last 12 months. The Space History Museum portable planetarium program served 654 in communities including Roswell, Lordsburg, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari, Las Vegas, and Grants in the last 12 months.

DCA notes this program could help build a science literate workforce and create student interest in pursuing STEM careers at space science research facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill would require PED to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide for the portable planetarium experience.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Planetarium programming will likely continue to be offered through nonprofit organizations and museums at current coverage levels within the state.

AMENDMENTS

DCA recommends replacing “contract with nonprofit organization” with “contract with an organization”.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

How many nonprofit organizations are able to provide planetariums and appropriate programming?

How many portable planetariums would be necessary to serve the entire state?

SL/CW/sb