

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Sunny Liu</b>
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:**

**AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov**

*{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

*Check all that apply:*

**Original**        **Amendment**      
**Correction**        **Substitute**   

**Date** 1/28/24

**Bill No:** Senate Bill 211

**Sponsor:** Sen. Michael Padilla  
**Short Title:** Science Education Promotion Fund

**Agency Name and Code** Economic Development Department 41900  
**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Writing** Nora Sackett  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
	\$1,000	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis:

Senate Bill 211 (SB211) establishes the Science Education Promotion Fund to make grants to public schools and state postsecondary institutions to support curriculum development and degree offerings within the fields of aerospace, bioscience, cybersecurity, renewable energy, intelligent manufacturing, and agriculture.

The fund is administered by the Economic Development Department (EDD). The department is tasked with making rules to govern the application for and disbursement of the monies in the fund in the form of grants.

SB211 makes a nonreverting appropriation of \$1 million (\$1,000,000) to the fund from the general fund.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill requires additional duties of EDD to carry out the purpose of the fund, including setting up a new grant program, evaluating strategic plans submitted by applicants, administering the new grant program and grant funds, developing metrics to determine the success of awardees in implementing the funds – however the bill does not include any funding for additional staff to carry out the requirements of the bill.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Increasing educational resources and graduates with degrees in the state’s target science and technology sectors is important to the advancement and growth of the state’s economy. It is also important to ensure that postsecondary education institution degrees and curriculum are aligned with industry and workforce needs. However, EDD does not currently include educational staff and may not have the policy expertise to evaluate educational curriculum proposals. Additionally, the program created by the bill would require interaction with the statewide network of public schools – while EDD does not currently have such connections in place, other state agencies such as the Public Education Department (PED) and the Higher Education Department (HED) may have existing networks that could be beneficial for the enactment of such a program.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The bill requires additional duties of EDD to carry out the purpose of the fund, including setting up a new grant program, evaluating strategic plans submitted by applicants, administering the new grant program and grant funds, developing metrics to determine the success of awardees in implementing the funds.

Given the broad eligibility for applicant institutions, which includes all public elementary, middle, junior high or high school in the state, the bill, if enacted, could result in thousands of applications – this would create significant additional administrative burdens for EDD given that the bill does not include any funding for additional staff to carry out the requirements of the bill.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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

## **AMENDMENTS**