

LFC Requester: _____

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.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}

Date Prepared: 2/9/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB177 Original Correction
Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: George K. Muñoz,
Meredith A. Dixon **Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
962

Short Title: GENERAL FUND
TRANSFERS TO OTHER
FUNDS **Person Writing fsdfs** Analysis: The VPAF Office

Phone: 575-835-5606 **Email:** VPAF@nmt.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
Transfer \$120,000.0	Transfer \$50,000.0	Non recurring	General Fund
	Authorize \$302,100.0		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY27	FY28	FY29	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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:

- Relating to public finance;
- Making transfers from the general fund to economic-related funds;
- Making appropriations for economic development-related purposes and initiatives of the Economic Development Department, New Mexico universities and businesses in the fields of artificial intelligence, quantum technology, advanced energy, space, aerospace, and defense, and bioscience;
- Making appropriations for projects with an associated effect on economic development;
- Making appropriations for public safety initiatives.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico Tech is in support of this bill. The \$16M appropriation to New Mexico Tech (Section 9) serves as a strategic force multiplier, allowing NMT to leverage state funds to secure federal and private research contracts.

- EMRTC (\$7M): This investment establishes a remote-operated "gateway" facility for munitions aging studies. By reducing human risk exposure to near zero, NMT directly aligns with Department of Defense and Department of Energy safety modernization goals, positioning the state to capture significant new rocket motor and defense sector contracts.
- Playas Research & Training Center (\$9M): These funds will modernize test ranges for emerging wireless technologies. This infrastructure is critical for the PEACE IDIQ with AFRL and strengthens NMT’s pending NSF Engineering Research Center proposal (CIWiCS). It creates a durable talent pipeline and supplier base across rural Southwest New Mexico.

NMT's existing expertise in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, Quantum, and Advanced Energy directly supports the broader initiatives within SB177. NMT is uniquely positioned to compete for and execute projects funded under different areas of this bill (e.g., Genesis Mission (AI/Quantum), the Advanced Energy Innovation Hub & Venture Studio, and the Defense, Bioscience & Aerospace Innovation Hub). The institution's expanding tech transfer office and recent High-Performance Computing (HPC) upgrades provide the necessary framework to support the entrepreneurial and open-access goals outlined in the bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

For the short-term, New Mexico Tech has the administrative capacity to manage the appropriations as outlined in this bill. Over the longer term, additional administrative resources may be required to support increased research activity, expanded technology development efforts, and associated compliance and operational demands.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified. The appropriations will build on the institution's existing capabilities and established testbeds, enabling the institution to efficiently deploy funds in alignment with state priorities.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Not enacting the bill would lead to a loss of momentum and opportunities to advance science and technology development addressing real-world challenges of critical importance to New Mexico. It may also diminish the state's competitiveness in emerging research areas and related workforce development efforts.

AMENDMENTS

Section 7.A, lines 16 – 20:

The current language reads: "to support New Mexico businesses in recruiting and retaining an advanced energy workforce; and to enable quantum computing researchers at Los Alamos national laboratory and Sandia national laboratories to use sabbatical leave to pursue commercial opportunities in New Mexico."

It was unclear why 'quantum computing researchers' were referred to here. We recommend replacing 'quantum computing' with 'advanced energy'.

Section 20 A and C:

Proposed clarification on faculty positions and start-up funds:

1. To build on the existing strength of New Mexico Tech and the emphasis in SB177 on aerospace and defense, New Mexico Tech recommends that faculty positions and start-up funds are included in these S&T areas: quantum, advanced energy, and aerospace and defense.
2. We also recommend that the number of faculty endowments increase from 5 to 6, distributed evenly across UNM, NMSU, and NMT. The total dollar amounts distributed may remain the same.

Therefore, to ensure statewide impact, we recommend the following sentence in Section 20.A on lines 7 and 8, page 13: "... for a total of three quantum and two advanced energy endowments at state research universities, ..." be revised to read: "for a total of six endowments distributed equally amongst the three research institutions in the areas of quantum, advanced energy, and aerospace and defense."

We recommend the following sentence in Section 20.C on line 20, page 13: "for research teams and laboratory usage for two endowed advanced energy faculty teaching positions at New Mexico research universities." be revised to read "for research teams and laboratory usage for three endowed advanced energy or aerospace and defense faculty teaching positions at New Mexico research universities."

Section 25:

New Mexico Tech recommends that funds to support projects that solve major challenges in the fields of AI, quantum, advanced energy, aerospace and defense and bioscience are distributed and managed through EDD and a committee consisting of representatives of NMT, NMSU and UNM work closely with EDD instead of the proposed structure (that may also include the 'anchor tenant' from the private sector being recruited to New Mexico).