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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-20-06

SPONSOR Garcia, M.J. LAST UPDATED 1/24/06 HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Space & Aerospace Research Program SB 121

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to:

- SB1 General Appropriation act of 2006
- SB 3 New Mexico Space Grant Consortium
- SB38 NMSU Aerospace Engineering Programs
- SB119 NMSU Science, Math & Engineering Academy
- SB120 NMSU Aerospace Engineering Department
- HB7 General Appropriation act of 2006
- HB 140 New Mexico Space Grant Consortium
- HB154 NMSU Aerospace Engineering Program
- HB158 NMSU Science, Math & Aerospace Academy
- HB159 NMSU Space and Aerospace Research Program
- HB167 Create NMSU Aerospace Research Program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 121 appropriate \$200,000 from the General Fund to the New Mexico State University Board of Regents for the purpose of supporting the Space & Aerospace education initiatives at NMSU. The program facilitates extensive collaboration with state partners, including the

Southern New Mexico Spaceport, other NM research universities, state and federal agencies, K-12 schools, the New Mexico located National Laboratories of Sandia and Los Alamos, state and regional economic development organizations, and the private aerospace sector. This program will work to establish state-wide partnerships in the space and aerospace discipline. Funds will be used to establish research and training programs of a cross-disciplinary nature, and industry development in space-related technologies with application to government and commercial sectors. Special emphasis will be placed on interactions that can help develop the research and educational initiatives surrounding development of a Southwest Regional Spaceport in Upham, NM.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of two-hundred 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 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Information submitted by NMSU indicates that this proposal is supported by the NMSU Board of Regents. However, it was not submitted to the Higher Education Department (HED) for consideration during the funding recommendation development process. Consequently, no recommendation for this purpose is included in the higher education funding recommendations for fiscal year 2007.

According to NMSU, this bill attempts to create synergy and coordination across New Mexico in Space and Aerospace research and development through, workshops and training for K-12, undergraduate and graduate students (workforce development), increased and diversified revenues (diversified funding) from intellectual property development, technology translation, practical applications of research discoveries, recruitment of diverse faculty and students into program research and education projects, and the construction of joint industry/NMSU proposals and research projects. These proposed activities will be carried out by the faculty and staff at NMSU.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Program seeks to fulfill goals including:

- Goal of at least 700 participants in K-12 outreach programs, 7 new assistantships, 14 new internships, and 2 new cross-disciplinary courses
- Goal of an increase of 3% in the number of women, minority, and disabled students participating in aerospace-related degree programs
- Goal of at least 6 institutions with at least 35 NMSU faculty members working on joint projects and proposals have a target value of at least \$1M.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

SB1	General Appropriation act of 2006
SB 3	New Mexico Space Grant Consortium
SB38	NMSU Aerospace Engineering Programs
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HB7	General Appropriation act of 2006
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HB167	Create NMSU Aerospace Research Program

Senate Bill 121 relates to the aforementioned list of proposed legislation. This list of related bills has in common the request to appropriate funding for programs that directly relate to: aerospace, aerospace engineering degree programs, and NMSU technical, scientific, mathematics, and research programs. SB 121 is specifically related to research programs within the field of aerospace at NMSU.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs within secondary institutions within New Mexico have recently been high-lighted as issues that are at the forefront of the New Mexico Federal Congressional Delegation's funding and legislative initiatives. This initiative is an effort to promote New Mexico's development of a technically proficient state population that is able to compete in attracting investment at both the national and global level in high-tech manufacturing, engineering and research.

There is an established correlation among STEM education programs and related research and incrementally higher rates of high-wage employment.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Not enacting this bill could increase difficulties in attracting diversified sources of federal and private R&D funding to New Mexico. Lowered levels of technical and R&D spending can correlate to negative impact(s) on economic development, including minimized technical development of the workforce.

PD/nt