

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 141

49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010

Tracking Number: .180822.1

Short Title: NM Tech Summer Science Program

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 12, 2010

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

SB 141 makes a nonrecurring appropriation to support the summer science program at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT).

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at NMIMT for FY 11.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), for FY 10 the Legislature appropriated \$50,000 in recurring funds and an additional \$50,000 in non-recurring funding.

Background:

According to HED, the curriculum for the summer science program is organized around a central research project. Students obtain in-depth, hands-on experience with advanced topics in the physical sciences, mathematics, and computer sciences through a combination of lectures, guest speakers, field trips, and research work. At the end of six weeks, each student will have had many hours of experience with the collection, measurement, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of scientific data.

Established in 1959 at Thacher School in Ojai, California, the Summer Science Program became an independent non-profit in 2000. It now takes place at two campuses: NMIMT in Socorro and Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. Industry partners include Sandia National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lockheed Martin.

HED reports that Summer Science Program participants are diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity, citizenship, socioeconomic status, and national origin. Young women and traditionally underrepresented minority students are especially encouraged to apply.

The Legislative Education Study Committee has heard testimony from the Summer Science Program during multiple interims, most recently in 2009, when the program in California was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Related Bills:

SB 82 *Minority Math, Engineering, & Science Program*