

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 138

**50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011**

**Tracking Number:** .183766.1

**Short Title:** Minority Math & Science Achievement Program

**Sponsor(s):** Senators Cynthia Nava and Mary Jane M. García

**Analyst:** Eilani Gerstner

**Date:** February 4, 2011

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**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Bill Summary:**

SB 138 makes an appropriation to the Higher Education Department (HED) for the New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (NM MESA) Program.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General Fund to HED for FY 12. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

HB 3, the *Education Appropriation Act*, includes an appropriation of \$100,000 to HED for NM MESA.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to the bill analysis from HED, NM MESA receives its annual budget through HED and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT). For FY 11, HED reports that NM MESA's budget includes \$990,500 through HED and \$135,000 through NMIMT.

For FY 11, no additional dollars were appropriated for NM MESA. In past years NMIMT has received the following additional appropriations for NM MESA:

- \$150,000 in FY10;
- \$255,000 in FY 09; and
- \$215,000 in FY 08.

**Background:**

According to testimony to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) during the 2009 interim, the national organization of MESA was founded in 1970 at the University of California, Berkeley, and NM MESA was founded in 1982. The mission of the program is to empower and motivate New Mexico's culturally diverse students with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrichment.

NM MESA provides:

- academic competitions (regional and statewide);
- field trips;
- college visits and counseling;
- scholarships; and
- teacher professional development.

Testimony to the LESC also included information about NM MESA students' successes:

- 82 percent of past participants had enrolled in college;
- 55 percent had graduated from college; and
- of the students who graduated from college, 88 percent graduated with a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering, education, or business.

**Related Bills:**

SB 139 *NM Tech Summer Science Program*