

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 29

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .185668.1

Short Title: Visit Challenger Learning Center

Sponsor(s): Senator John C. Ryan

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 10, 2011

Bill Summary:

SJM 29 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee:

- collaborate with the Public Education Department and the superintendents of all the public school districts in New Mexico to encourage all schools to participate in the educational programs of the Challenger Learning Center New Mexico (CLCNM);
- prepare a report identifying steps that can be taken to encourage teachers and school districts to participate in the educational programs of the CLCNM; and
- provide the report to the Secretary of Public Education and the superintendent of each public school district.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

Background:

According to the center's website, the CLCNM is a nonprofit educational organization located at the Unser Discovery Center in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. It is one of over 50 such learning centers around the world providing interactive, educational space simulations for school-aged students, grades K-12 and preservice and in-service teacher workshops to prepare teachers to implement math and science curricula.

During a space simulation, students apply critical thinking, problem-solving, science, technology, engineering, math, and other skills they have learned in school to successfully rendezvous with Comet Encke and gather comet particles. This simulation shows students that the topics they are studying in school have real-life applications and are stepping stones to rewarding and exciting careers. The comet simulation curriculum is carefully aligned with both New Mexico and national science standards.

Related Bills:

None as of March 10, 2011.