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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/12/13

SPONSOR Garcia, R LAST UPDATED 02/23/13 HB 378

SHORT TITLE Northern NM Youth Science and Math Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Higher Education, Northern New Mexico College

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
Northern New Mexico College (NNMC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 378 (HB 378) appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) for the purposes of contracting for services to provide scientific and technological education for students in Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 2 includes a general fund appropriation of \$150 thousand to the NNMC for a science, technology, engineering, and math initiative. The appropriation is nonreverting based on language in HB 2, Section 4.

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Under the bill, any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY14 shall revert to the general fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

A number of programs, including the state-funded Mathematics Education (MESA) program, exist to help students in northern New Mexico pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. HB 378 would allow the NNMC to serve as a fiscal agent for one such program, Café Scientifique, that has received support from the National Science Foundation, Los Alamos National Labs, and other private and public sources.

As reported by the Higher Education Department (HED), Café Scientifique has provided students in Albuquerque, Los Alamos, Santa De, and the Pojoaque-Espanola areas with monthly, 90-minute sessions where professors teach students about various scientific areas of study. Recent workshops have included lessons on space, weather, cybersecurity, and robotics. The Café Scientifique programming is sponsored by Solutions Education Inc., a for-profit entity focusing of student education. An information survey of student participants demonstrated student support for this program, noting that 71 percent of survey respondents said the sessions changed student perceptions of math and science.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The program does not have performance measures or reports on file with the College or the HED, but anecdotal information supports Café Scientifique Program's impacts on students. Should the NNMC receive funding for this program, performance measures will need to be developed,

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The HED noted that the Department did not receive a FY14 budget request from the NNMC for this program. Neither the HED FY14 budget request nor the Executive or LFC FY14 budget recommendations included general fund appropriations for this program. The HED cited the NNMC board meeting minutes (August 2012), where it was noted that this project was not a priority for the College.

Should HB 378 be enacted, the NNMC will need to follow state procurement laws in contracting with others to provide this educational service to area students. The College will also need to complete budget documents that include performance measures for FY14.

## **TECHNICAL COMMENTS**

The bill is narrowly tailored and may raise anti-donation concerns under Article IX, Section 14 (anti-donation clause). A more general appropriation to the College for the purposes of providing an evidence-based STEM-outreach program for high school students could satisfy this concern.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Fewer students will be exposed to science and math topics and likely lead to smaller numbers of students pursuing math and science fields in their postsecondary studies.