

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 18

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195368.1

Short Title: UNM Space Technology Consortium

Sponsor(s): Representative Carl P. Trujillo

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 28, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 18 makes an appropriation to support the Space Technology Consortium (STC) at the University of New Mexico (UNM).

Fiscal Impact:

\$60,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) from the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), the Higher Education Department did not review this project as part of its annual budget process for research and special projects. As such, the project also was not reviewed by the Department of Finance and Administration or by the LFC.

In addition, the FIR states that LFC staff estimates that an additional \$100,000 may be required for general operational support of the STC in FY 16.

Substantive Issues:

According to UNM, the appropriation would provide start-up funds for the STC to be based at the Configurable Space Microsystems Innovations and Applications Center at UNM.

The FIR points out that without additional information about the STC, it is unclear whether this project would complement or supplant an existing New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSGC) at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Background:

NMSU states that an existing program, the NMSGC, is currently operating on their campus and might be similar to the STC. NMSU is the lead institution for NMSGC. NMSU further states that NMSGC is a member of the congressionally funded National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. NMSGC is also the lead agency for coordination and cooperation in

technical education and enhancement of research infrastructure for the Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (SGCFP).

NMSU states that objectives of the SGCFP are to:

- establish and maintain a national network of universities with interests and capabilities in aeronautics, space, and related fields;
- encourage cooperative programs among universities, aerospace industry, and federal, state, and local governments;
- encourage interdisciplinary training, research, and public service programs related to aerospace;
- recruit and train US citizens, especially women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities, for careers in aerospace science and technology; and
- promote a strong science, mathematics, and technology education base from elementary through secondary education levels.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

None as of 1/28/2014