

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 219

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195285.1

Short Title: NMSU Science, Math & Tech Outreach Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Mary Helen Garcia and Others

Analyst: David Craig

Date: February 11, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 219 makes an appropriation to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to support the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Entrepreneurship Outreach and Retention Program.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 219 makes a \$290,600 recurring appropriation from the General Fund to the NMSU Board of Regents for expenditure in FY 15 and subsequent years. Any unexpended balance at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

For FY 15:

- According to the Higher Education Department (HED) bill analysis, although a request for the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Entrepreneurial (STEM+E) outreach and retention program was submitted by the Board of Regents of NMSU, based on flat funding, HED did not recommend funding for this project.
- According to the Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) this program has not received General Fund appropriations in the past, and neither the LFC or the Executive recommended funding.
- CS/HB 2 et al., *General Appropriation Act of 2014*, appropriates \$2.0 million dollars to the Public Education Department (PED) for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative. This appropriation includes \$500,000 for professional development of mathematics and science teachers statewide.
- The PED's Public School Support Request included \$2.5 million for STEM to:
 - implement recruitment incentives for highly qualified math and science teachers to enter the classroom;
 - implement incentives to retain highly qualified math and science teachers to stay in the classroom; and

- provide training for teachers already in the classroom to better understand their content areas and deliver better instruction.

Substantive Issues:

According to the NMSU bill analysis, the STEM+E program will:

- serve a statewide K-20 audience to create a STEM workforce pipeline that possesses entrepreneurial skills;
- broaden statewide K-20 participation in STEM+E outreach programs; and
- integrate existing K-12 STEM outreach programs at NMSU to increase student engagement, establish alignment with the common core state standards (CCSS), and create performance metrics to ensure transition through the STEM+E pipeline.

In addition, the NMSU bill analysis indicates that in FY 15 the STEM+E program will also:

- reach and support over 1,000 K-16 students through mentoring, tutoring, educational experiences, competitions, summer intensives, and other STEM reinforcement activities;
- support over 20 undergraduate student employees as STEM mentors and trainers;
- engage over 20 NMSU faculty members to create and deploy effective and innovative outreach and training practice in STEM+E skills development;
- serve as a statewide engine for STEM training and outreach, using the NMSU Cooperative Extension Services (CES) infrastructure to bring the STEM+E program activities to all counties in the State; and
- serve as a statewide clearinghouse of expertise and practices in STEM and business outreach and training by:
 - providing integration among programs;
 - promoting replication of successful models, and
 - offering community engagement and awareness in the importance of STEM education.

According to the NMSU bill analysis, the activities of the STEM+E program in FY 15 will place an emphasis on:

- the development of the infrastructure underlying all its long-term activities, including the development of the network of partners and collaborators;
- the design of in-class and informal learning activities; and
- the initial integration and linking of the existing focused STEM educational and outreach programs on the NMSU campus.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HM 19 “*NM STEM Education Week in the House*”

SM 38 “*NM STEM Education Week*”