

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HJM 1

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .198243.1

Short Title: Unified Science, Tech & Math Championship

Sponsor(s): Representative Bill McCamley

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 5, 2015

Bill Summary:

HJM 1 resolves that the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) (see “Background,” below) work with the Public Education Department (PED) to:

- create a statewide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) championship program for all New Mexico middle and high schools;
- develop extracurricular and co-curricular clubs and activities related to STEM;
- provide funding at every public school for a STEM coach.

HJM 1 further resolves that:

- NMAA, PED, school districts, and charter schools work with schools, businesses, and field experts to provide quality control for STEM extracurricular and co-curricular programs;
- NMAA and PED report their progress on the STEM initiative to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) by December 1, 2015; and
- copies of HJM 1 be transmitted to the director of NMAA, the Secretary of PED, and the Chair of the LESL.

Among its provisions, HJM 1 states that:

- an article in *Education Policy Analysis Archives* shows that students who participate in science and math clubs have higher grade point averages in related classes and are three times more likely to choose STEM majors in college; and
- the NMAA supports the New Mexico Science Olympiad, the New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair, and the Technology Student Association.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

For FY 16, HAFS CS/HB 2 & 4, the *General Appropriation Act of 2015*, as passed by the House of Representatives includes a \$2.0 million General Fund appropriation to PED to support a statewide STEM initiative.

Background:

The NMAA was formed in 1921 as a private/nonprofit organization whose principle purpose is the regulation, direction, administration, and supervision of interscholastic activities in the State of New Mexico.

Current NMAA-sanctioned athletics include:

- Baseball;
- Basketball;
- Cross Country;
- Football;
- Golf;
- Soccer;
- Softball;
- Swimming;
- Diving;
- Tennis;
- Track and Field;
- Volleyball;
- Wrestling;
- Spirit Cheerleading; and
- Drill Team.

Current NMAA-sanctioned non-athletic activities include:

- Athletic Training Challenge;
- Bowling;
- Business Professionals of America;
- Chess;
- Choir,
- Concert Band;
- DECA Marketing Education;
- Drama / One Act Play;
- English Expo;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America;
- FFA Agriculture Education;
- Health Occupations Students of America;
- Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps;
- Mock Trial;
- Rodeo;
- Scholastic Publications;
- Science Fair;
- Science Olympiad;
- SkillsUSA;
- Speech and Debate;
- Student Council, and
- Technology Student Association.

Committee Referrals:

HEC

Related Bills:

HB 34 *Science, Tech & Math Coach Program Units*

HB 60 *NMSU Science, Tech & Math Outreach*

HB 82 *School Academic & Enrichment Programs*

HB 159 *Science, Tech & Math Coach Program Unit*

SB 387 *ENMU Science, Tech, Math & Health Degrees*