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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Fajardo ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/18  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 186  
SHORT TITLE NM Tech Supercomputing Challenge SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Daly

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |         | Recurring<br>or Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY18          | FY19    |                              |                  |
|               | \$100.0 | Recurring                    | General Fund     |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 186 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT) for expenditure in FY19 and subsequent fiscal years for supporting the supercomputing challenge program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

HED reports that NMIMT has received line item general fund appropriations for the Supercomputing Challenge in FY15 and FY16 in the amounts of \$58.8 thousand and \$59.4 thousand respectively. The general fund appropriation was discontinued in FY17.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED explains the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge is an annual science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competition designed to get students in grades six thru 12

interested in STEM fields, while also getting local technology firms interested in New Mexico students. Participants come from public, private, parochial, and home-based schools in all areas of New Mexico. Students form supercomputing challenge teams to tackle a range of topics in the areas of astronomy, biology, geology, physics, ecology, mathematics, economics, sociology, and computer science. Sponsored by partnerships between federal laboratories, universities, and businesses, student participation in the challenge is offered at minimal cost to the participants or the school district. In addition to providing food and lodging for the kickoff conference at NMIMT, sponsors also supply time on the supercomputers and lend equipment to schools that need it. Additionally, sponsors conduct training sessions at workshops and advise teams throughout the year.

HED reports that its, the executive, and the legislative recommendations all support flat funding for existing line item general fund appropriations for FY19, and this expenditure is not an existing line item.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

HED notes that the mission of the Supercomputing Challenge is to teach teams of elementary, middle, and high schools students how to use powerful computers to analyze, model, and solve real world problems. Each challenge year commences with a Kickoff Conference at NMIMT where students have the opportunity to attend talks and tutorials to gain essential knowledge for successful completion of the annual challenge. Student teams are required to submit proposals, attend the Kickoff Training Session, conduct peer reviews and attend project evaluations at various universities across the state. Locations of the project evaluations for FY18 include San Juan College; New Mexico State University; Santa Fe Community College; Eastern New Mexico University; Northern New Mexico College; University of New Mexico; New Mexico Highlands University; University of New Mexico Grants; University of New Mexico Los Alamos; and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. In addition, the challenge year includes a tour of Sandia National Laboratories. Included in the tour are talks and demonstrations of technology developed at Sandia National Laboratories. The challenge year culminates at Los Alamos National Laboratory in late April with a Project Expo and judging followed by an awards ceremony. The online link for the annual Supercomputing Challenge can be found at: <https://supercomputingchallenge.org/17-18/>

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