| LFC Requester: | LFC |
|---|---|

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**
**2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

**LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV**

***and***

**DFA@STATE.NM.US**

***{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}***

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**
***{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}***

*Click all that apply:*
**Original** X **Amendment** ____
**Correction** ___ **Substitute** ____

**Date** 2024-01-30
**Bill No**: HB279

**Sponsor:** Mirabal-Moya, Tanya
**Short Title:** STEM TECHNOLOGY LABS

**Agency Name and Code Number**: NMHED
**Person Writing** Comes, Douglas
**Phone:** 5056706478 **Email** douglas.comes@hed.n

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---|---|---|---|
| **FY24** | **FY25** | | |
| N/A | $1,000.00 | Nonrecurring | General Fund |
| | | | |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FY24** | **FY25** | **FY26** | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

| | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

BILL SUMMARY

HB279 makes an appropriation of one million dollars ($1,000,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for expenditure in FY25 for the STEM Outreach Center for the expansion of STEM technology labs statewide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB279 makes an appropriation of one million dollars ($1,000,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for expenditure in FY25 for the STEM Outreach Center for the expansion of stem technology labs statewide. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the General Fund.

NMSU did not submit this request to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for possible incorporation into the NMHED higher education comprehensive funding recommendation. The NMHED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the NMHED funding recommendation.

While HB279 indicates that unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund, appropriations to New Mexico public postsecondary institutions typically do not revert.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The mission of the STEM Outreach Center "is to build a New Mexico State University (NMSU) K-16 Pipeline Outreach Program by reaching out to school districts, educators, families, community agencies, and higher education institutions? (https://stemcenter.nmsu.edu/index.html). Within its portfolio of work, the STEM Outreach Center offers after-school programming; community outreach; resources for students, families, and educators; and conducts research to improve STEM teaching and learning.

As listed on the STEM Outreach Center's website, research from the center has demonstrated:

- The importance of coordinating activities and expectations with partner districts focused on student learning and achievement.
- The value of grounding professional learning experiences and coursework in actual classroom experiences and using data and artifacts.
- The characteristics of effective experiences for students, teachers, and principals.
- The effectiveness of focusing on school and district needs.

Furthermore, the STEM Outreach Center's work has led to:

- Gains in achievement for teachers participating in professional learning partner districts are greater than state averages.
- Over 85 percent (85%) of students enrolled in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) showed improvement in academic learning this past year.

STEM fields struggle with having a representative workforce although there are signs of improvement. Data from a 2023 report from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics shows that the STEM workforce is diversifying and becoming more representative of the overall population. However, sizable gaps by gender in addition to race and ethnicity persist, with males and those from White backgrounds both being overrepresented nationally (https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf23315/).

Demand for workers with STEM skills will be high in the future. Data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that STEM occupations will see an employment change of 10.8% from 2022 to 2023, compared to just 2.3% for non-STEM occupations. This growth may be particularly pronounced in New Mexico, with employers like the Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory located in the state.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB279 does not outline specific performance measures; however, if funded, New Mexico State University (NMSU) should develop performance measures in coordination with the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico State University (NMSU) would administer this program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

The STEM Outreach Center at New Mexico State University (NMSU) could seek other sources of funding such as private philanthropy, federal grants, or dollars from the NMSU general budget.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB279 is not enacted, the STEM Outreach Center at New Mexico State University (NMSU) may not be able to expand its STEM technology labs.

AMENDMENTS

N/A