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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 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 2025-01-28

Bill No: SB107

Sponsor: Pope, Harold
Short NMSU STEM CENTER OF
Title: EXCELLENCE

**Agency Name
and Code** NMHED
Number:

Person Writing Weber, Jody
Phone: 6179089730 **Email** jody.weber@hed.nm.g

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	\$6,000.0	Nonrecurring	Public Education Reform Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	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

Senate Bill 107 (SB107) establishes a Center for Excellence at New Mexico State University (NMSU) for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). SB107 creates a statewide STEM Innovation Network, with the NMSU Center as its principal hub, and up to eight (8) regional hubs and a tribal hub for each of the federally recognized Indian Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos in the state. SB107 establishes a steering committee staffed by NMSU Center to approve a regional hub application process and select hubs, and to provide an annual progress report to the Governor and the Legislature. SB107 appropriates six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to the New Mexico Public Education (NMPED) Reform Fund, reverting to NMPED for FY26-28 to support the network. NMS 21-2-27.11 established a series of Centers of Excellence in Higher Education across the state. SB107 creates an amendment to NMS 21-2-27.11 adding a new Center of Excellence at NMSU in STEM.

The network shall:

1. Consist of up to eight (8) regional hubs, and a tribal hub for each of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and pueblos in the state.
2. Identify, connect and strengthen existing educational programs in STEM fields.
3. Support provision of additional in-school and out-of-school education opportunities for students.

4. Coordinate with employers to expand career opportunities for students and ensure they are equipped for employment in STEM fields.
5. Connect educators with professional development opportunities.

Regional or Tribal Hubs: Local government or tribal or private organization or consortium of public and private organizations that (1) serve as a point of contact for public schools, postsecondary education, employers and STEM industry representatives and (2) connect students with educational and employment opportunities.

SB107 establishes a Network Steering Committee consisting of:

- Secretary of Public Education;
- Secretary of Higher Education;
- Secretary of Workforce Solutions;
- Secretary of Early Childhood Education and Care;
- Secretary of Indian Affairs;
Representative of the Math and Science Advisory Council in the Math and Science Bureau of NMPED, selected by the Council;
- Member of a public state university faculty with expertise in STEM, appointed by the Secretary of Higher Education;
- Person with business or professional experience in a STEM-related industry, appointed by the Secretary of Workforce Solutions;
- Seven (7) people appointed by the Secretary of Public Education, including (1) a public school teacher; (2) a person with expertise in providing STEM-related out-of-school programs and services; (3) a charter school administrator or teacher; and representatives with educational expertise of (4) the Navajo Nation; (5) the Mescalero Apache Tribe; (6) the Jicarilla Apache Nation; and (7) the All Pueblo Council of Governors.

Selection of Regional and Tribal Hubs:

The steering committee creates an application process administered by the NMSU Center, with reasonable efforts to reach out to Indian tribes, nations and pueblos, and shall conduct initial review and recommend approval to the steering committee for selection from the applicants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB107 creates a new Center for Excellence at NMSU to work toward innovations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). NMSU shall serve as the principal hub for the STEM Innovation Network, which shall foster access to education and employment opportunities in STEM fields for students and educators. The Center shall manage the network and staff its steering committee.

The appropriation for SB107 is six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to the Public School Reform Fund, reverting to NMPED for FY 26-28 to support the STEM Innovation Network.

NMSU did not submit this request to the 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.

SB107 assigns new functions and duties to NMHED for the Secretary of Higher Education."These additional functions and duties may increase NMHED administrative costs, but further review is still needed to ascertain the full financial impact of SB107."

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB107 is being championed by a coalition of organizations and state agencies, including NMPED, Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) of the New Mexico Legislature, Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANLF), New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST), UNM Project Echo, NM MESA, NMSU, and others (NMSU FIR 2025).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The committee shall meet at least once each fiscal quarter and adopt a work plan and program requirements and priorities. In establishing the steering committee, the five agency secretaries included should be listed as "Secretary or designee." SB107 requires the NMSU Center to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on network development, goals and achievements of the hubs and activities of the steering committee.

SB107 does not provide performance measures, however, if funded, NMSU Center should develop performance measures in coordination with the steering committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB107 creates an amendment to NMS 21-2-27.11 adding a new Center of Excellence.

SB107 is similar to SB347 introduced in 2023.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB107 were not passed, then six million dollars (\$6,000,000) would not be appropriated to create a Center of Excellence at NMSU for STEM.

AMENDMENTS

N/A