

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 204

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195563.1

Short Title: NMSU Manufacturing Development Program

Sponsor(s): Senators Joseph Cervantes and Mary Kay Papen

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 2, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 204 makes an appropriation to expand the Manufacturing Sector Development Program (MSDP) at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), this request was submitted to HED by NMSU as a funding increase for FY 15. FY 14 funding for MSDP was \$446,400. HED recommends \$446,400 for FY 15 with no increase for this project.

Substantive Issues:

NMSU states in its analysis of SB 204 that the requested expansion funds of \$100,000 will be used to broaden stakeholder engagement to advance the state's economy and meet statewide needs. Demand for engineering technical assistance grew 33 percent over FY 13 targets and demand for services has outpaced available personnel. The requested funds will be used to support and retain core engineering personnel directly involved in engineering business assistance.

Background:

According to NMSU, MSDP contributes to the delivery of engineering-based outreach services to businesses and governmental and non-governmental entities; and it provides innovative educational, science, technology, engineering, and math programs that prepare leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs for high-tech and engineering-based jobs. The program leverages extensive expertise to advance the state's economy and meet other statewide needs. It is the only state-funded program to provide technical engineering assistance to small and medium businesses across the state to ensure that they remain relevant, competitive, and viable under globally changing economic conditions.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 7 *General Appropriation Act of 2014*

HB 228 *UNM Manufacturing Engineering Program*