

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 143

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202793.1

Short Title: NM Math, Engineering & Science Program

Sponsor(s): Senator Sue Wilson Beffort

Analyst: Robin Shaya

Date: January 28, 2016

Bill Summary:

SB 143 appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for expenditure in FY17 for the New Mexico mathematics, engineering and science achievement program (NM MESA).

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to HED for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund. HED provides fiscal oversight for the program, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining Technology (NMIMT) acts as the fiscal agent for the program.

Substantive Issues:

According to the FY17 Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) Program Closing Report submitted to NMHED, the MESA program impacted 30 school districts in New Mexico. More than 100 MESA graduates have enrolled in higher education institutions. Teachers participating in the MESA program receive continuous training. The MESA program also hosts enrichment and academic activities such as engineering research conferences, academic competitions, and college tours throughout New Mexico.

According to NM MESA, the \$200,000 appropriation would enable the MESA program to engage 200 additional students in 10 school districts throughout New Mexico.

Background:

NM MESA is a nonprofit organization providing a pre-college program that prepares students for postsecondary majors and subsequent careers in mathematics, engineering, science, and other technology-related fields. NM MESA is part of a nationwide initiative that promotes educational enrichment for pre-college students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups. NM MESA supports student programs in middle and high schools statewide through seven regional offices with two in Albuquerque, and one each in Española, Las Vegas, Gallup, Las Cruces, and Roswell.

According to NM MESA, the program for the current school year:

- serves 4,140 students in grades 6 through 12 at 106 middle and high schools across 31 school districts statewide; and
 - 47 percent are female students; 53 percent are male students;
 - 81 percent are minority students;
 - 62 percent students receive free or reduced school meals;
 - 52 percent of students' parents have never attended college; and
- employs 150 MESA advisors who teach at each MESA site.