FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

		ORIGINAL DATE	1/31/20		
SPONSOR	Papen	**LAST UPDATED**		**HB**	
SHORT TITLE	Early Physics Education Pilot Project Funding			**SB**	155
			ANALYST		Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	**FY21**		
	$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bills 71 and 125 and Senate Bills 21 and 42.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
LFC Files
Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

No Response Received
Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)
Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 155 appropriates $600 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for a five-year early physics education pilot project for sixth through eighth grades to determine if an early physics education will improve overall academic performance and encourage an interest in science and mathematics careers..

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $600 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 shall revert to the general fund.

SB155 would require PED to administer the science early education pilot project, including selection of participants, disbursement of funds, and establishing reporting requirements and evaluation criteria. This likely would involve agency resources and staff time. It is presumed the agency can absorb these costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

From PED:

> PED has adopted the NM STEM Ready! Science Standards that include physical science, life science, and earth and space standards for grades kindergarten through 12, which went into effect on July 1, 2018. The NM STEM Ready! Science Standards have the overall goal of preparing *all* students to be science literate citizens.

> SB155 does not require alignment with the NM STEM Ready! Science Standards or the Middle School Course Maps, although the recommended Integrated Middle School Course Map includes the teaching of physics at grades six, seven, and eight.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If successful, the pilot could provide school administrators with a path for improving standardized science test scores. Statewide science proficiency rates have decreased 5 percentage points in the last three years.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB71, Teen Technology Center Programs, would appropriates $2 million to Workforce Solutions Department to establish and administer teen technology center programs in five New Mexico cities.

HB125, Portable Planetarium for Bilingual STEM Ed, would appropriate $138 thousand to PED to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide public school students a bilingual STEAM learning experience within a portable planetarium.

SB21, Development and Support of Robotic Teams, would appropriate $1 million to PED for the development and support of STEAM programs in middle schools and high schools, including robotics teams.

SB42, Pilot Project for Early Physics Education, also would establish a $600 thousand, five-year early physics education pilot project to serve students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, but would also create an early physics education fun and specifies the study parameters.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB155 does not specify to whom and when the results of the pilot will be reported.

HFG/rl