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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/2020

SPONSOR Ramos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Southwest NM School STEM Programs SB 205

ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY20 | FY21 | | |
| | \$225.0 | Recurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bills 71, 125, 287 and 296 and Senate Bills 21 and 42.
Relates to appropriations in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Files

No Response Received
Public Education Department (PED)
Regional Educational Cooperatives (REC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 205 appropriates \$225 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department to provide hands-on training in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics for students in southwest New Mexico.

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 \$225 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

Because SB205 provides academic programming funds outside the state equalization guarantee formula, which distributes funds based on student need and other specifics of a local school entity, SB205 has the potential to disqualify distributions of public school funding.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Robust early science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics – STEAM – education is aligned with national best practices and job skill needs. LESC reports the National Science Foundation indicates STEAM education plays a critical role in preparing students for STEAM majors and careers, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects STEAM-related job sectors will grow significantly through 2026. The New Mexico Workforce Solutions Department says qualified candidates in engineering, medicine, physics, and computer technology are in demand in New Mexico, especially in rural areas.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Greater access to STEAM education could improve standardized test scores. Statewide science proficiency rates have decreased 5 percentage points in the last three years.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB205 fails to provide PED with guidance for distributing the funding.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB71 would appropriate \$2 million to Workforce Solutions Department to establish and administer teen technology center programs in five New Mexico cities.

HB125 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.

HB287 would appropriate \$150 thousand for STEAM summer academy camps for students from seventh through 12th grade.

HB296 would appropriate \$250 thousand to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for pre-college after-school and summer STEAM enrichment programs.

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

SB42 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 fund and specifies the study parameters.

SB155 would appropriate \$600 thousand for a five-year early physics education project.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 contains \$318 thousand from the general fund for New Mexico State University for the STEM Alliance for Minority Participation, \$137.3 thousand for Northern New Mexico College for STEAM initiatives, and \$5 million for the Public Education Department for special programs in STEAM.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill is unclear on what school districts and charter schools would qualify because it does not define southwest New Mexico.

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