

**LFC Requester:**

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

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*{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}*

Check all that apply:  
**Original**     **Amendment**      
**Correction**     **Substitute**   

**Date** January 27, 2025  
**Bill No:** SB 107

**Sponsor:** Harold Pope  
**Short Title:** Statewide STEM Innovation Network

**Agency Name and Code Number:** New Mexico State University/954  
**Person Writing:** Clayton Abbey  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	6,000.0	Nonrecurring	Public Education Reform Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

## **ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	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**

##### Synopsis:

Senate Bill 107 proposes establishing a Center of Excellence for STEM innovation at New Mexico State University and creating a statewide STEM Innovation Network. The network will consist of regional and tribal hubs to enhance STEM education and career pathways in STEM careers, working with local industry to align workforce needs with educational opportunities. The network will support both K-12 outreach, including principal and teacher professional learning; STEM curriculum support for after-school and STEM camps in informal STEM education settings; and stronger K-12 connection to STEM workforce.

NMSU will serve as the principal hub and coordinate efforts statewide through eight regional hubs. The purpose is to coordinate, leverage, and expand the resources and expertise of various entities across New Mexico that are engaging in STEM education outreach and research. The regional hub model will ensure STEM resources and professional learning opportunities are accessible to all regions of the state.

The Network will be housed in the College of HEST and operate under the umbrella of NMSU SERI (STEM+ Education Research Institute), which has a growing group of STEM education researchers who can inform the network efforts through national and local STEM education studies.

A steering committee, which will include representation from a wide variety of stakeholders including PED, HED, Workforce Solutions, and tribal nations, will oversee the network's activities and outputs. The bill outlines funding provisions, reporting requirements, and hub selection criteria.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SB 107 appropriates six million dollars (\$6,000,000) from the public education reform fund to the Public Education Department for expenditure in Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SB 107 aims to address the siloed nature of the STEM education landscape in New Mexico. A STEM Innovation Network would serve to facilitate collaboration between local education agencies (LEAs), higher education, industry partners, and state government in pursuit of high-quality STEM education that is accessible to all students and educators throughout New Mexico,

and ultimately support robust pathways to the STEM workforce.

Another issue the bill addresses is the disconnect between STEM education research and educational practice in the K-12 public school setting. The Network will bridge the gap between research and practice by bringing together higher education teachers with K-12 leaders to inform both on education practice that strengthens learning as well as the unique issues in New Mexico that are hindering student learning and access to STEM careers. The Network will serve to enhance STEM+ success at all levels for all students, particularly those traditionally underrepresented in STEM. It will also contribute to the diversification of the STEM+ workforce through NMSU's professional development of teachers and faculty to support the implementation of evidence-based and inclusive teaching practices.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

SB107 establishes a Steering Committee that will determine annual performance goals.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SB 107 indicates that NMSU will serve as the principal hub for the Network and that up to eight regional and tribal hubs will be established. NMSU will manage and provide technical assistance to the regional hubs. An administrative consideration is to create the mechanism to identify current STEM education efforts and recruit organizations to serve as hubs in all regions of the state.

As the principal hub, it is the responsibility of NMSU to establish the Center of Excellence and coordinate the work of high education, LEAs, and STEM Education organizations.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

There is not conflict or duplication of effort with any other legislative bills.

The STEM Innovation Network bill is being championed by a coalition of organizations and state agencies, including the New Mexico Public Education Department, the Legislative Education Study Committee of the New Mexico Legislature, Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, NMOST, UNM Project Echo, NM MESA, NMSU, and others.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

N/A

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

N/A

### **ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Currently, students and teachers across New Mexico have limited access to STEM resources, educational programs, and professional learning opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

If the bill is not enacted and funded, this limited access will continue, education inequities will persist, and industry will continue to look out-of-state to fill its growing STEM workforce needs.

## **AMENDMENTS**

N/A