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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-10-06
 SPONSOR Ezzell LAST UPDATED 2-13-06 HB 570/aHEC
 SHORT TITLE ROSWELL SCIENCE FESTIVAL SB _____
 ANALYST Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$27.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 169, HB 268, SB 555.

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amended HB570 as follows:

On page 1, line 21, strike “or” and insert in lieu thereof “and”.

The amendment allows fifth **and** sixth-graders to participate in the program. The previous language only allowed fifth **or** sixth-graders to participate.

This amendment will allow more children to participate in the Roswell Science Festival.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 570 appropriates \$27.0 from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for the purpose of contracting with the city of Roswell's recreation department to coordinate an educational science festival for fourth-, fifth- or sixth-grad and other gifted students in southeastern New Mexico that includes exhibits, workshops and hands-on activities and demonstrations from state or national scientific organizations or museums.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$27.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

There is no appropriation or fiscal impact on the Department of Cultural Affairs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Roswell science festival for upper elementary students in southeastern New Mexico began six years ago by a parent organization to highlight engaging activities and exhibits for students. Museums and scientific organizations (such as Johnson Space Center, the Science Place, Bureau of Land Management and the oil industry) send exhibits and activities to enrich the educational opportunities of those students. Six to seven hundred students attend and many of these students are bused to Roswell. The funding supports primarily busing the students and transporting the exhibits.

As a growing community, Roswell has many students eager to learn about science but not many resources like museums, planetariums, nature centers, or other science-related business that are found in more urban areas of the state like Albuquerque, Las Cruces, or Santa Fe. Goddard Science Days is a community-based festival that seeks to bring the science enrichment resources to students in Roswell and surrounding communities.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This bill supports PED performance measures for student proficiency in mathematics and science and the standards and benchmarks for mathematics and science.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No administrative impact for the Department of Cultural Affairs. The science festival in Roswell, called Goddard Days, has been a successful event for several years. The administrative infrastructure is in place, as the gifted students parents' association has been the primary organizer in the past, in cooperation with the Roswell Recreation Department.

CYFD would absorb any additional administrative costs associated with passage of the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB 169, HB 268, SB 555.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The festival is a free hands-on exhibit and science discovery festival, in the Roswell Convention Center, designed to teach and delight with exhibits covering the topics of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

In previous years, The International Hall of Fame Center of Alamogordo, New Mexico exhibit highlighted an exciting variety of Space Exhibits including but not limited to Space Suit protection, the International Space Station, Mercury Capsule, a Tour of the New Solar System, with topics like: Galileo, Cassini Space Probe, Mars, Stardust Mission and many others. Explora! Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque exhibits emphasized the fun of learning and critical thinking with such apparatuses as Jacob's Ladder, a Tornado Box, Lighting rods and many more.

Many other activities such as an evening of star gazing with the Roswell Astronomy Club, a rocket building workshop and a community Rocket Launch with the Roswell Parks and Recreation Department.

Extracurricular academic opportunities provide alternative activities to gang involvement and are more generally associated with prevention of juvenile justice involvement. Science and mathematics skills are increasingly important factors in the national job market and for statewide economic growth.

ALTERNATIVES

Appropriate the funding to the Public Education Department or the Roswell school district.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Roswell city recreation department would have to seek funding from other sources.

DL/yr:nt