

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 45

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: NM Tech Summer Science Program

Sponsor(s): Representative John A. Heaton and Others

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 18, 2007

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

HB 45 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to provide scholarships to New Mexico high school students to attend a summer science program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$72,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. HB 45 contains a reversion clause.

The appropriation will fund the tuition of 12 New Mexico high school students to attend the program, at a cost of \$6,000 per scholarship.

Issues:

Testimony before the LESC by a representative of Summer Science Program, Inc. described the Summer Science Program as an intense, college-like academic experience, intended to recruit the brightest high school seniors from around the nation and several foreign countries into mathematics and science careers. The Summer Science Program began in California in 1959 and, in 2003, expanded to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, in Socorro.

- The Summer Science Program offers students 140 hours of college-level lectures: 30 percent in mathematics, 30 percent in physics, 25 percent in astronomy, and 15 percent in computer programming and other related areas during the day.
- At night, students work in teams of three, take telescopic observations of an asteroid, measure them precisely, and write software to convert their measurements into a mathematical description of the asteroid's orbit.
- The curriculum includes two prominent guest speakers each week and field trips to places like the VLA and Apache Point Observatory (in New Mexico) and Jet Propulsion Laboratories and Table Mountain Observatory (in California).

PED's bill analysis indicates that the program funded in HB 45 relates to the recommendation from the Math and Science Town Hall to "increase opportunities for ... students to translate knowledge from the standard classroom experience to practical, timely and relevant applications."

Related Bills:

HB 147 *Minority Pre-College Student Math & Sciences*

SB 75 *NM Tech Summer Science Program* (identical)