

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 109

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: NMSU Science, Technology & Math Outreach

Sponsor(s): Representative Joni Marie Gutierrez and Others

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 22, 2007

Bill Summary:

HB 109 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) to pay for coordination and expansion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educational outreach programs.

Fiscal Impact:

\$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

During the 2005 interim, the LESC heard a presentation on the Mathematics and Science Education Town Hall that was convened in mid-November 2005 by New Mexico First on behalf of the New Mexico Partnership on Math and Science Education to examine ways to improve mathematics and science education. The Town Hall generated eight recommendations to address the state's needs related to science and mathematics education. Among these recommendations was "...a New Mexico mathematics and Science initiative that establishes consistency between how teachers are educated, what they teach, the standards that govern what is taught, student learning, and assessment." The increased exposure of underrepresented minorities to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as the partnerships between New Mexico institutions of higher education, businesses and government that result from HB 109 could reflect commitment to the Mathematics and Science Initiative.

The Higher Education Department (HED) analysis of HB 109 identifies the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Alliance for the Preparation of Scientists, Engineers and Mathematicians (the STEM Alliance) as the coordinator of more than 50 educational outreach programs sponsored by NMSU. The STEM Alliance is building a national model for increasing the number of underrepresented K-20 students entering science, technology, engineering, and mathematics coursework and careers, and for improving their academic achievement. It also develops collaborative programs between New Mexico institutions, businesses, and governmental agencies.

The Public Education Department's (PED's) analysis lists the goals of the STEM Alliance, which include:

- recruiting and educating more future teachers, scientists and engineers;
- developing a statewide master's degree in teaching math and science;

- improving alignment between K-12 and higher education to help students to move into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and workforce participation; and
- providing K-12 teachers and higher education faculty with information on best practices for increasing achievement and participation, especially among ethnically diverse and female students and students with disabilities, language minorities and rural and low-income students.

Related Bills:

HB 54 *NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program*

HB 111 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach Program*

HB 129 *Middle School Teacher Science & Math Training*

SB 24 *NMSU Science, Technology & Math Programs* (identical)

SB 29 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach Program*

SB 40 *NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program*

SB 140 *Middle School Teacher Science & Math Training*