

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/2007

SPONSOR Tripp LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1097

SHORT TITLE NM Tech Border Security System SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$770.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicate to SB 1070

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1097 appropriates \$770,000 from the General Fund in FY08 to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT) for the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC) to develop a border security system for the tracking of human and animal movements.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$770,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED provides per information from the EMRTC Director, it is estimated that the funding will be used as follows:

- Equipment and special instrumentation (\$175,000-\$270,000)
- Salaries/benefits of existing personnel and/or contractors (\$300,000)
- Infrastructure support (\$200,000)

According to information on the NMT website, the EMRTC is a major component within the overall complex of research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) activities at NMT. EMRTC is a world-class RDT&E complex of more than 30 test facilities located within its 40 square-mile field research complex. The center has more than 100 highly experienced, technically proficient professionals who perform in-depth scientific investigations and studies in a number of technology areas in conjunction with and/or for: the Departments of Defense, State, Energy, Justice, and Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency; Los Alamos National Laboratory; Sandia National Laboratories; and other academic institutions across the country. Additionally, NMT was one of nine research universities in the southwest border-states that have announced the formation of the Southwest Border Security Consortium (SBSC), an alliance that will develop and promote scientific and policy solutions to issues affecting the U.S.-Mexico border region.

A request for the recurring amount of \$766,800 was submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) by NMT and included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08. Also, a request for an additional sum (\$568,500) was submitted to NMHED by NMT but is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

GM/csd