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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/26/12
 LAST UPDATED 02/01/12 HB 78/aHEC

SPONSOR Smith

SHORT TITLE International Robot Competition SB _____

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 44 and relates to HB 58

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment changes the appropriation to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University and changes the use to fund a yearlong program. As a result of the change the classification of expenditure is changed from recurring to nonrecurring.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 78 appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to the PED for the purpose of a yearlong program to educate teams of students in grades three through twelve and their teachers to design, build, program and test autonomous robots and to start an international robot completion for students teams to demonstrate skills and knowledge as academic athletes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund. Per LFC letter dated January 16, 2012, appropriations for public education will grow approximately 3 percent per year through FY 15.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED cites studies from Carnegie Mellon and Brandies University that the use of robotics education supports learning in science, technology, engineering, math, and language education. Participating students are more likely to attend college and twice as likely to major in science and engineering.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This bill supports the PED strategic plan and the ready for success initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED will have to estimate costs of establishing or participating in an international robots competition to determine amounts that will be available for distribution to school districts.

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 78 duplicates SB 44 and relates to HB 58 which has the same purpose but is open to only Native American students and teachers in the same grades and appropriates a lesser amount.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED is concerned because the bill does not indicate the number of schools that will be participating or whether funding is for all schools or targeted schools in selected districts.

GAC/svb:amm