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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/12

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 124

SHORT TITLE Uranium Decision Makers Conference SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hoffmann

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 124 would appropriate \$75 thousand to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to hold a decision maker's conference on uranium.

The appropriation is authorized for expenditure in fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75 thousand is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED reports this request was not submitted by the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. HED has established a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions. This process requires prior approval by the governing body of the university or college. It also provides for analysis of each request by HED, DFA and LFC. HED recommends that requests that circumvent the formal review process not receive funding in the

annual budget but be directed to be resubmitted for funding in FY14.

The EMNRD states that its Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has historically assisted New Mexico Tech in the planning and development of decision maker conferences and, particularly when those conferences involved mining issues, provided speakers and authors for the field tour. Should HB 124 be enacted, MMD staff will likely need to devote, in FY 13, up to 12 hours preparing information on legacy and potential uranium mining activity. It is also likely that two or more MMD staff would be asked to be present during the field tour, which may amount to 32 hours of staff time and would likely require a day of per diem for each individual.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the EMNRD, HB124 could provide an opportunity to inform legislators and other officials about uranium issues in the hope of more informed policy decisions. The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology's Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has conducted a series of decision-makers conferences focusing on a variety of natural resources issues in the past that were popular among legislators.

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