LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS

Bill Number: HB 25 **51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

Tracking Number: .190418.1

Short Title: ENMU Robot Workshops

Sponsor(s): Representative James E. Smith

Analyst: Travis Dulany **Date: February 1, 2013**

Bill Summary:

HB 25 makes an appropriation to manage and conduct statewide workshops for students in grades 3-12, along with their teachers, to learn to design, build, and program robots capable of payload delivery, firefighting, or other autonomous functions in order to compete in an international robot competition.

Fiscal Impact:

$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) for FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of FY 14 shall revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

In analyses from a previous legislative session, the Public Education Department noted that:

- the use of robotics education supports learning in science, technology, engineering, math, and language education, according to studies from Carnegie Mellon University; and
- when comparing students engaged in contextual learning programs, such as robotics, to students with comparable backgrounds and achievement levels in high school math and science, a Brandies University study finds that students engaged in contextual learning programs are:

  - significantly more likely to attend college;
  - twice as likely to major in science and engineering;
  - ten times more likely to have had an apprenticeship or internship in their college freshman year; and
  - more than twice as likely to expect to have a science- or technology-related career after college.

Background:

The Legislature approved a $100,000 appropriation to the Board of Regents of ENMU during the 2012 regular legislative session for a purpose similar to that of HB 25; however, that appropriation was vetoed by the Governor.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

SB 150 *ENMU Robot Workshops & Competition* (Identical)