

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 213

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191548.1

Short Title: Minority Math, Engineering & Science Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Edward C. Sandoval and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 1, 2013

Bill Summary:

HB 213 makes an appropriation for the minority mathematics, engineering, and science achievement program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to HED, the General Fund allocation for the New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (NM MESA) program for FY 13 is \$1,182,300 administered through HED to the Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech). HB 213 increases FY 14 funding for the program to \$1,332,300.

Substantive Issues:

HED points out that, according to testimony before the Legislative Education Study Committee in 2010, NM MESA received:

- 79 percent of its funding from the Legislature;
- 14 percent from federal agencies; and
- 7.0 percent from donations, corporations, and foundations.

HB 213 supports the ongoing commitment of the Legislature to maintain support for disadvantaged and underrepresented students in obtaining greater academic skills in math, science, and engineering careers.

Background:

HED states in its analysis of HB 213 that NM MESA is a nonprofit organization providing a pre-college program that prepares students for postsecondary majors and subsequent careers in mathematics, engineering, science, and other technology-related fields. NM MESA is part of a nationwide initiative that promotes educational enrichment for pre-college students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups.

NM MESA supports student programs in middle and high schools statewide through seven regional offices with:

- two in Albuquerque; and one each in
- Española;
- Las Vegas;
- Gallup;
- Las Cruces; and
- Roswell.

According to HED, a teacher, typically a math or science teacher, from the school administers each school program. Through memoranda of understanding school districts pay participating teachers \$2,000 per year and provide up to nine release days, while NM MESA covers the costs for teachers' food, transportation, and supplies to participate in activities, events, and competitions.

These programs provide a variety of enriched math, science, and engineering activities, such as:

- field trips;
- speakers;
- workshops;
- regional and statewide academic competitions;
- community service projects; and
- leadership development training.

HED reports that NM MESA serves over 5,000 students in 135 schools in 39 school districts and one pueblo, of which:

- 61 percent are Hispanic;
- 12 percent are Native American;
- 2.0 percent are African-American; and
- 25 percent are other ethnicities.

Of the past participants 82 percent went on to enroll in college, and 55 percent of those graduated with degrees.

HED provides fiscal oversight for the program, and NM Tech acts as the fiscal agent for the program.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

None as of February 1, 2013.