

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 394

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .199842.1

Short Title: Minority Math & Science Achievement Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Yvette Herrell

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 20, 2015

Bill Summary:

HB 394 makes an appropriation for the minority mathematics, engineering, and science achievement program.

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

HED states that this request was not submitted to HED as part of the annual budget review process.

Substantive Issues:

According to HED, New Mexico State University (NMSU) has a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. One of the performance measures in that program includes activities aimed at improving success in STEM for at-risk students. HED adds, however, that it is unclear whether HB 394 relates to the NMSU STEM project or not.

HED also notes that New Mexico has struggled to develop and engage a STEM-trained workforce ready to respond to the challenges of modern economic development. While STEM career opportunities have been increasing at four times the overall job growth rate, with the prospect of 53,000 new STEM jobs in New Mexico by 2018, our academic system is producing an alarming low number of STEM graduates and STEM competent workers to meet the demand.

Background:

HED reports that the STEM minority participation program administered by NMSU with recommended funding for FY 16 of \$329,500 serves underrepresented minority students in STEM degree programs through:

- outreach;
- mentoring;
- scholarships and stipends;

- orientations and courses; and
- research experiences.

State funds are leveraged with federal dollars to expand support for student interventions and scholarships. STEM collaborates with New Mexico's:

- colleges and universities;
- other undergraduate STEM programs in the state; and
- K-12-focused New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program.

HED also states that NMSU submitted a new proposal for FY 16 to serve a K-20 audience in the interest of state STEM workforce and entrepreneurial needs.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 5 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*
HB 34 *Science, Tech & Math Coach Program Units*
HB 60 *NMSU Science, Tech & Math Outreach*
HB 159 *Science, Tech, & Math Coach Program Unit*
HJM 1 *Unified Science, Tech & Math Championship*
SB 210 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*
SB 387 *ENMU Science, Tech, Math & Health Degrees*