

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 562

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .200540.1

Short Title: NMSU Science & Tech Diversity Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Jeff Steinborn

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 17, 2015

Bill Summary:

HB 562 makes an appropriation to support a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) entrepreneurship and diversity program at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds shall revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

HB 5, *General Appropriation Act of 2015*, SB 210, *General Appropriation Act of 2015*, and CS/HB 2 & 4, as amended, *General Appropriation Act of 2015*, all contain General Fund support for NMSU's research and public service projects, including:

- \$329,500 STEM Alliance for Minority Participation program; and
- \$50,000 for STEM in HB 5 and SB 210; and \$65,000 in CS/HB 2 & 4, as amended.

Substantive Issues:

According to NMSU, investment in the STEM program will:

- increase the number and quality of the STEM workforce in New Mexico in critical areas to meet the economic development needs of the state;
- recruit and educate a dynamic and inclusive student population in STEM across all stages of the K-20 educational pipeline;
- enhance STEM competency in the general workforce, making it competitive in both local and global markets;
- broaden the participation of women and traditionally underrepresented minorities in STEM training and careers; and
- establish a sustainable infrastructure for STEM engagement, training, and employment that builds on sharing resources among stakeholders in the school, academic, government, and corporate domains.

Background:

NMSU notes in its analysis of a nearly identical bill (HB 60) that New Mexico is experiencing a dramatic shortage in the STEM-trained workforce, especially in emerging industries in technology and engineering. Some studies forecast over 53,000 new STEM-type jobs will be created in New Mexico within the next four years, with over 70 percent of them in computing and engineering. The ability to meet this workforce demand, however, is currently insufficient. A contributing factor to the disproportionate gap in the STEM-trained workforce is the continuing gender and racial underrepresentation of women and minorities. For example, less than 18 percent of the undergraduate degrees in computing and engineering are awarded to women, and only 17 percent of undergraduate STEM degrees are awarded to minorities.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

CS/HB 2 & 4, as amended *General Appropriation Act of 2015*

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 1a *Unified Science, Tech & Math Championship*

SB 210 *General Appropriation Act of 2015*