LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS

Bill Number: SB 387 **52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015**

Tracking Number: .199429.1

Short Title: ENMU Science, Tech, Math & Health Degrees

Sponsor(s): Senator Stuart Ingle

Analyst: James Ball **Date: February 19, 2015**

Bill Summary:

SB 387 makes an appropriation to establish a program to enhance the number and success of students pursuing degrees at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in:

- science;
- technology;
- engineering;
- mathematics; and
- health-related professions.

Fiscal Impact:

$180,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the funding request in SB 387 was submitted to HED as part of the annual budget review process; however, HED did not recommend funding for this project for FY 16.

Substantive Issues:

ENMU proposes a three-point approach to increasing minority students' interest in, preparation for, and success in science, technology, mathematics, and health (STEM-H) careers, coordinated through a STEM-H Student Success Center. This program would provide:

- summer workshops for college-bound high school students from under-represented groups to introduce them to STEM-H fields and to the academic skills required for these careers;
- peer mentors who have successfully worked their way through these programs in order to support STEM-H students in the environment of a community of learners; and
- a series of activities to prepare students for the STEM-H job market and /or graduate study.

Background:

Analysis of similar projects at another university indicates that New Mexico is experiencing a dramatic shortage in the STEM-H trained workforce, especially in emerging industries in technology and engineering. Some studies forecast over 53,000 new STEM-H 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-H trained workforce is the continuing gender and racial underrepresentation of women and minorities.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 341 *Use of Nurse Educators Fund for Degree* (Identical to HB 121)
SB 385 *Health Undergrads in Underserved Areas*
SB 388 *ENMU Nursing Program* (Identical to HB 334)
HB 60 *NMSU Science, Tech & Math Outreach*
HB 121 *Use of Nurse Educators Fund* (Identical to SB 341)
HB 334 *ENMU Nursing Program* (Identical to SB 388)