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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/2015

SPONSOR Smith LAST UPDATED 3/9/2015 HB 59

SHORT TITLE ENMU Statewide Robot Workshops SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hartzler

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$300.0	\$300.0	\$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to

- HB 34 Science, Tech and Math Coach Program Units
- HJM 1 Unified Science, Tech and Math Championship
- HB 82 School Academic and Enrichment Programs

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4J Higher Education,

- Eastern New Mexico University, Youth Robotics Competition
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Supercomputing Challenge Program

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 59 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to Eastern New Mexico University to administer statewide computer workshops for students in grades three through 12 to learn to design, build, program and test payload delivering, firefighting or autonomous robots,

culminating in an international robot competition to be held in New Mexico.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund. However, if this appropriation for the statewide robotics competition is included in Section 4 of the General Appropriation Act, the funding will not revert to the general fund pursuant to legislative language governing that section.

While Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) received \$99.7 thousand in general fund support in FY15 to administer such a program, HED notes that the university did not submit a request to continue this program in FY16. HB 2, as passed by the House, includes a \$99.7 thousand general fund appropriation for this program. Should HB 59 and the House-passed version of HB 2 be enacted, the youth robotics program would receive nearly \$400 thousand in general fund support, a 300 percent increase over FY15 levels.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

PED cites a report by Brandeis University that concludes students engaged in contextual learning programs, like robotics, are more likely than their peers not participating in such experiences to

- Attend college;
- Major in science and engineering;
- Have apprenticeship, internship, or cooperative experience in their first year of college; and
- Have a science- or technology-related career after college.

Importantly, the youth robotics program supports PED's strategic lever 3,

- goal 1: to increase the percentage of students who score Proficient and Advanced on the NMSBA and
- goal 6: to increase the number of students prepared for college and career.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not require nor does the University have performance measures for this program. HED recommends that measures be developed if this program continues for FY16.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED observes that the bill does not indicate the number of schools impacted or whether funds are to be available to all or only some schools and school districts.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

PED reports that this bill shares similar objectives as HB 34, Science, Tech and Math Program Units (a bill creating a funding formula factor for STEM coaches) and HB 82 School Academic and Enrichment Programs (funding for after-school enrichment programs).