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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/2015

SPONSOR Ingle LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE ENMU Science, Tech, Math and Health Degrees SB 387

ANALYST Hartzler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$180.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$180.0	\$180.0	\$360.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, HB 5, General Appropriation Act, Section 4J, Higher Education, Eastern New Mexico University, Research and Public Service Projects, STEM (page 157, ll. 13-14).

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4J, Higher Education, Eastern New Mexico University.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 387 appropriates \$180 thousand from the general fund to ENMU to establish a program to enhance the number and success of students pursuing science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health-related (STEMH) degrees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$180 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 STEMH program 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.

The university requested \$180 thousand of general fund support for this project as part of the HED's FY16 budget process to consider research and public service projects. HED did not request funding for this project in FY16, and the Executive did not recommend funding for FY16.

ENMU's project was included in the LFC's FY16 recommendation (HB 5), for \$100 thousand in general fund support. The initiative was one of many and STEMH general student success initiatives and program expansions recommended by the LFC. (See LFC Volume II, p. 356.) If SB 387 and the LFC recommendation are enacted, the program would receive a general appropriation of \$280 thousand for FY16.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

During the FY16 budget review process, ENMU staff described challenges their students, particularly STEMH, encounter, ranging from lack of sufficient preparation to enter STEM programs to few mentors and models demonstrating successful undergraduate program completion and graduate school preparation. In addition, ENMU's student body includes a large percentage of at-risk students: first-generation college students (over 50 percent of first-time freshmen), Pell grant eligible (45 percent), and from minority backgrounds (37 percent of degree-seeking undergraduate students).

To assist these students before and during their courses of study, ENMU examined student services and academic programs offered by other institutions, and proposed efforts tailored for ENMU students. The additional general fund support would help the university establish the following programs:

- Peer mentoring;
- Tutoring and supplemental instruction assistance;
- Internship clearinghouse;
- Career exploration, academic and career advising clinics;
- Various presentations: student professionalism, scientific demonstrations by visiting scholars, alumni experiences;
- Laptop loan program for STEM students; and
- STEM library/meeting space.

ENMU noted that, while STEM students generally have stronger academic skills, a number of hurdles face these students: feeling overwhelmed in some classes, underprepared for the pace or depth of scientific or mathematical content, or uncertainty in their skills or drive to succeed in demanding courses.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no performance measures included SB 387; however, ENMU proposed a number of measures and targets should the university receive funding for FY16.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The appropriation in SB 287 duplicates an appropriation in HB 5, the LFC's FY16 recommendation for the 2015 General Appropriation Act.

TH/bb