

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 245

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .203001.4

Short Title: Pre-College Minority Student STEM Programs

Sponsor(s): Representative Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert and Others

Analyst: Christina McCorquodale

Date: January 29, 2016 (Revised)

Bill Summary:

The bill appropriates \$350,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY17. The appropriation will fund a pre-college minority students program designed to increase knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics, and health sciences. The minority students program is designed to be ongoing that will provide summer camps for career exploration.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$350,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to a report commissioned by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, the underrepresentation of African-Americans in engineering begins in the postsecondary education level. The STEM fields continue to attract low percentages of African-Americans. In 2010, the share of African-American students enrolled in engineering programs remained at 5.0 percent, even with new freshmen applications.

The minority students program encourages and enables under-represented students in kindergarten through 12th grade to attain proficiency in mathematics and science and prepare them to enroll and complete college with a science, math, engineering, or teaching degree and career.