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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Smith ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/18
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 237

SHORT TITLE Statewide Robot Playshops and Competition SB _____

ANALYST Daly

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 146

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 237 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) to manage and conduct statewide playshops for students and teachers in grades three through 12 to learn to design, build program and test payload delivering, firefighting or other autonomous robot challenges, culminating in an international robot competition held annually in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY19 shall revert to the general fund.

ENMU last received a general fund appropriation of \$224.7 thousand for a similar purpose in FY16.

HED notes that earmarked appropriations to public higher educational institutions identified in a General Appropriation Act do not normally revert.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill does not indicate the number of schools to be involved in the program, nor whether funds are to be available to all or only some schools and school districts.

In its analysis of the FY16 appropriation, PED cited a report by Brandeis University that concluded students who 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.

DUPLICATION

HB 237 is a duplicate of SB 146.

MD/sb/al