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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ramos ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Southwest NM School STEM Programming SB 542

ANALYST Eckberg

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$1,361.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response Received From
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 542 appropriates \$1,361,140 million from the general fund to PED for the purpose of providing real-world and hands-on training for students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) in southwest New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,361,140 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) is a movement championed by Rhode Island School of Design. The concept adds arts to the better known science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiatives. Advocates of the STEAM initiative believe art and design are essential elements of STEM and necessary skills for the workforce.

In 2017, the Public Education Department (PED) adopted the New Mexico STEM-Ready Science Standards, replacing the state’s existing science standards that were in place since 2003. The new standards present a shift in expectations for STEM education delivery, encouraging educators to focus more on applied learning rather than rote memorization of facts.

Between FY14 and FY19, the Legislature appropriated \$13.1 million for STEM initiatives; however, science proficiency rates have remained relatively flat in the last decade. PED’s STEM Initiative funding has been used to provide support for math curriculum and innovation as well as professional learning opportunities to teachers and school leaders on content, pedagogy, and standards implementation. For FY19, the General Appropriation Act of 2018 included \$3 million to PED for STEM Initiatives, a \$1.1 million, or 58 percent, increase from the previous year. Additionally, the Legislature added a \$500 thousand special appropriation to help PED implement the new STEM-Ready standards.

The FY20 Executive and LFC budget recommendations included \$6 million and \$3 million respectively for STEAM initiatives. This is the first time budget recommendations have included STEAM as opposed to STEM initiatives.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The short title of the bill refers to STEM, leaving out the ‘A’ for ‘arts’.

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