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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020

Bill Number	<u>SB205</u>	Sponsor	<u>Ramos</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.216837.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Southwest NM School STEM Programs</u>		
Analyst	<u>Kennedy</u>	Original Date	<u>2/3/2020</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/7/2020</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 205 (SB205) would appropriate \$225 thousand to the Public Education Department (PED) to provide real-world and hands-on training in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) for students in southwest New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPACT

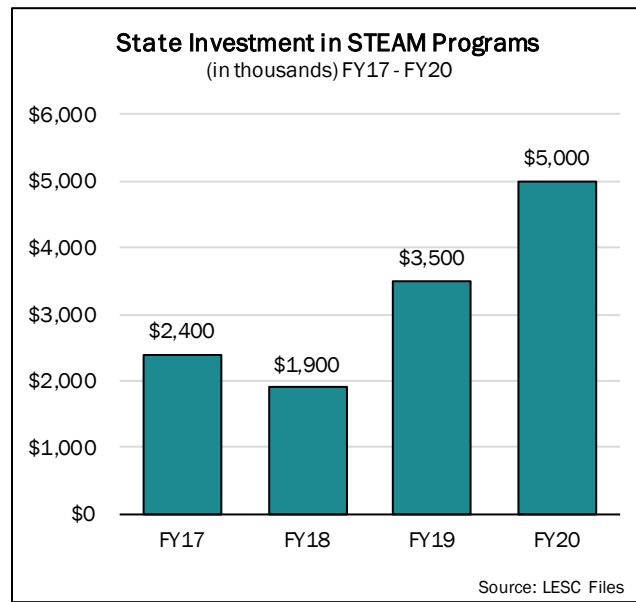
SB205 appropriates \$225 thousand from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Analysis from PED notes it is unclear which school districts and charter schools constitute southwest New Mexico.

Despite significant investment in STEAM programs, statewide science proficiency rates have decreased 5 percentage points in the last three years. Investment in effective, differentiated STEAM programs is needed to improve student outcomes. In 2017, the PED adopted the NM STEM Ready! Science Standards (NMSRSS), which combine the national Next Generation Science Standards and six New Mexico-specific standards, to improve the rigor of STEAM instruction. State funding for STEAM initiatives has increased considerably in the past several years. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 includes \$5 million for STEAM initiatives. Despite these investments and new initiatives, only 35 percent of New Mexico students were proficient in science in FY19.

Analyses by the National Science Foundation suggest STEAM education plays a critical role in preparing students to enter STEAM majors and careers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEAM-related job sectors are projected to grow significantly through 2026. The Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) reports qualified candidates in fields such as engineering, medicine, physics, and computer technology are in high demand, especially in rural areas of New Mexico.



ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would be required to develop an award methodology for the appropriation included in SB205. Because SB205 does not define southwest New Mexico, PED would need to determine which school districts and charter schools are eligible for funding.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to HB71, Teen Technology Center Programs, which appropriates \$2 million to DWS to establish and administer teen technology center programs in five New Mexico cities to immerse students in STEAM.

Relates to HB287, Grant County School STEAM Programs, which appropriates \$150 thousand to PED to contract with an organization in Grant County that will provide summer academy camps in STEAM to seventh through 12th grade students.

Relates to HB296, Student Prep for STEM Careers, which appropriates \$250 thousand to the board of regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for pre-college after-school and summer enrichment programs that prepare students for careers in STEAM.

Relates to SB42, Pilot Project for Early Physics Education, which establishes a five-year early physics education pilot project to serve students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, creates an early physics education fund, and appropriates \$600 thousand from the general fund to the early physics education fund.

Relates to SB155, Early Physics Education Pilot Project Funding, which appropriates \$600 thousand to PED to design and implement a five-year pilot project for early physics education for sixth through eighth grade students.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)