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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, C ORIGINAL DATE 01/29/20
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 58
SHORT TITLE ENMU Robotics Funding SB _____
ANALYST Gelay

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 21, Development and Support of Robotics Teams

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
NM Higher Education Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 58 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to Board of Regents at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) for the purpose of managing and conducting statewide playshops for students in grades three through twelve to manage and conduct statewide robot playshops and to allow students and/or teachers to attend an international robot competition to be held annually in New Mexico.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU, has served as the hub for robotics competitions in New Mexico and El Paso, Texas since 2001. The mission is to engage students in STEM curricula as well as to inspire students to pursue careers in these fields by bridging classroom knowledge with real-world experience. Through participation in the program, students learn to analyze and solve problems utilizing the engineering design process, develop technological literacy skills, enhance communication skills, and learn to effectively work in a team setting.

The Higher Education Department (HED) notes: ENMU received a general fund appropriation in the amount of ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$99,700) for FY15. In FY16, the appropriation increased to two hundred twenty-three thousand, four hundred dollars (\$223,400) for a Youth Robotic Competition. This was a legislative line-item appropriation. The General Fund appropriation was discontinued beginning in FY17. In FY19, HB2 allocated fifty-thousand (\$50,000) in nonrecurring funding.

Neither the Executive Recommendation nor the Legislative Finance Committee recommendations include continued funding for FY21.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB 58 relates to SB 21, which seeks an appropriation of \$1 million from the General Fund to the Public Education Department for the development and support of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, including robotics teams in middle and high schools.

ALTERNATIVES

HED notes that ENMU may seek other sources of funding such as federal or private grants as an alternative if HB 58 is not passed.

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