F I S C A L I M P A C T R E P O R T

SPONSOR Trujillo, C. **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/3/2020 **LAST UPDATED** **HB** 125

SHORT TITLE Portable Planetarium for Bilingual STEM Ed **SB**

ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	**FY21**		
	$138.3	Recurring	General fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB155, HB475 (2019), HB548 (2019)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Files
Responses Received From
None

No Response Received
Public Education Department (PED)
Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 125 appropriates $138.3 thousand from the general fund to PED for the purpose of contracting with a nonprofit organization to provide a bilingual science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) experience within a portable planetarium for public school students

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $138.3 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.

HB125 duplicates a 2019 request that was reduced to $60 thousand and included in Chapter 279 (House Bill 279 or “House Bill 2 Junior).” That appropriation was treated as nonrecurring and

was not included in the documents used as a starting point for developing budget proposals for FY21.

Because no agency submitted analysis for this report, it is unclear if the $60 thousand provided in FY20 was enough to contract with the nonprofit or what services were provided for that amount. However, the Santa Fe Children's Museum operates a portable planetarium, an inflatable dome-shaped room in which images are projected onto the celling, that offers bilingual programming to individuals of all ages and features cultural tales, star talks, and interplanetary travel. The museum can hold up to five one-hour-long shows in a day for up to 30 people at a time, including two chaperones. Due to a grant, the program is free to any school within a 100 miles that qualifies for Title I federal assistance. The Santa Fe Children's Museum current program expenditures total $69,750. In 2019, the Children's Museum projected its program could be expanded statewide for $219.5 thousand.

STARGAZER PROGRAM	Current Program	Potential Expansion: Northern New Mexico	Potential Expansion: Statewide
Students Served	7,000	12,000	20,000
Program FTE	1.0	2.0	3.0
Expenditures			
Instruction	$50,000	$100,000	$150,000
Administration	$10,000	$20,000	$30,000
Travel and Lodging	$5,000	$10,500	$25,000
Insurance	$750	$1,250	$2,000
Supplies	$1,000	$1,500	$2,500
Maintenance	$3,000	$5,000	$10,000
Total Expenditures	**$69,750**	**$138,250**	**$219,500**

Source: Sante Fe Children's Museum

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Cultural Affairs Department reported for House Bill 475 from the 2019 session that a portable planetarium program could augement core programs at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and the portable planetarium program at Space History Museum in Alamogordo, bringing additional astronomy programs to rural areas of the state. The planetarium at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science saw over 8,000 students and over 25 thousand attendees overall in the last 12 months. The Space History Museum's planetarium in Alamogordo saw 22.6 thousand visitors over the last 12 months. The Space History Museum portable planetarium program served 654 in communities including Roswell, Lordsburg, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari, Las Vegas, and Grants in the last 12 months.

DCA notes this program could help build a science literate workforce and create student interest in pursuing STEM careers at space science research facilities.

New portable planetariums cost between $30 thousand and $40 thousand. Portable planetariums can hold 27 to 56 people at a time. The smallest model needs 21-square feet to be set up while the largest requires 27-square feet. The planetarium cannot be set up outside.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 155 appropriates $600 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for a five-year early physics education pilot project for sixth through eighth grades

to determine if an early physics education will improve overall academic performance and encourage an interest in science and mathematics careers.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2&3, the 2020 General Appropriation Act, contains funding for both bilingual and multicultural education and science education.

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