Jorgensen

# **AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov (Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

#### **SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared:	31 January 2025	Check all that apply:	
<b>Bill Number:</b>	SB107	Original _x	Correction
		Amendment	Substitute

Sponsor:	Pope, Garratt, Gurrola, Gonzales	Agency Name and Code Number:	NM Independent Community Colleges 994
Short	NMSU STEM Center of	Person Writing Phone:	Vanessa K. Hawker
Title:	Excellence		Email vhawker@hawkerhynson.com

### SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

## **APPROPRIATION** (dollars in thousands)

Appropr	iation	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$6,000.0		NR	Public School Reform Fund

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

<u>Synopsis:</u> Senate Bill 107 (SB107) establishes a center of excellence at New Mexico State University (NMSU). SB107 creates a STEM innovation network which consists no more than 8 regional hubs and a tribal hub for each of the federally recognized tribes, pueblos, and nations in the state. NMSU is the principal hug, responsible for network management and technical assistance.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB107 appropriates \$6 million from the public school reform fund to the public education department for expenditure in FY26 – FY28 to support the STEM innovation network. Any unexpended or unencumbered funds at the end of FY28 shall revert to the public education reform fund.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMICC represents 8 independent community colleges, the New Mexico Military Institute, and

shares representation of Northern New Mexico College and Western New Mexico University with the Council of University Presidents.

NMICC institutions train students in science, engineering, technology, and mathematics. We work closely with employers in our communities, coordinating with them to ensure our students are equipped to meet their needs. It is unclear in SB107 how NMICC institutions would be integrated into this proposed network. Based upon New Mexico higher education department fall 2024 headcount, NMICC institutions train over 37% of our students. Looking at only the 8 community colleges and NM Military Institute, we train over 33%. It appears as though SB107 excludes a significant population of New Mexico students.

SB107 emphasizes institutions and industry partner collaboration. It is not clear if the funds appropriated to the public education department would be distributed to community colleges to support our students and our collaborations with industry partners.

It is unclear why New Mexico State University is selected as the principal hub as many of New Mexico's post-secondary institutions are leaders in science, mathematics technology, and engineering.