

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Soules LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/2023
SHORT TITLE NM University Quantum Materials & Tech PGM. BILL NUMBER Senate Bill 79
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$15,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Economic Development Department (EDD)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 79 appropriates \$15 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for the purpose of creating a quantum materials and technologies collaboration between New Mexico State University, New Mexico Tech, and the national laboratories. Funding could also be used to develop workforce training programs in cooperation with state community colleges.

The bill does not allow for expenditures in excess of \$3 million per year and authorized funds to be used through the end of fiscal year 2028.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to NMSU:

Governments around the world are investing in quantum research, with the U.S. government alone expected to invest \$1.3 billion over the next five years (NIST, 2021). Private companies such as Google, IBM, and Alibaba are also investing in quantum computing research (Zhang et al., 2020). Quantum computing is expected to solve immense computational problems, leading to new discoveries in fields such as biology, chemistry, and climate science (Smelyanskiy, 2019).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

UNM notes that the existing Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) office, funded through the National Science Foundation, would be able to manage the appropriation to meet the research goals and administrative burden of a new program.

CJ/rl/ne