

Fiscal Note

BILL # SB 1029

TITLE: appropriation; astronomy discovery center

SPONSOR: Rogers

STATUS: Senate Engrossed

PREPARED BY: Nate Belcher

Description

The bill appropriates \$19,600,000 from the General Fund to the Arizona Department of Administration to distribute to Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff to build an astronomy discovery center.

Estimated Impact

We estimate that SB 1029 would not have an impact on state spending beyond its appropriation. The astronomy discovery center may attract new visitors to Flagstaff and produce gains for the local economy. To the extent that the center generates net new activity, the state could gain additional revenue.

Analysis

The Lowell Observatory currently receives roughly 100,000 visitors per year. The observatory anticipates an increase of 250,000 visitor-nights per year once the discovery center opens. At an assumed rate of \$299 economic impact per visitor-night, bill proponents estimate increased economic activity of \$74.5 million in Flagstaff each year. To the extent that the new discovery center incentivizes new economic activity and does not simply redirect existing consumer expenditures, the state would benefit from higher General Fund and other revenue collections.

5/26/22

