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HOUSE BILL 270

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph L. Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT FUND; REQUIRING ASSESSMENTS OF BENEFITS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RURAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-1-27.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 367, Section 1) is amended to read:

"21-1-27.2. TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT FUND CREATED-- ALLOCATIONS--APPLICATION REVIEW PANELS.--

A. The "technology enhancement fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of appropriations, income from investment of the fund, gifts, grants, donations and bequests. Money in the fund shall not revert at the end of any fiscal year. The fund shall be administered by the

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1 ~~[commission on]~~ higher education department. Money in the fund
2 shall be used to provide matching funds for federal or private
3 grants to ~~[state research universities]~~ research institutions
4 to support innovative applied research that advances knowledge
5 and creates new products and production processes in the fields
6 of agriculture, biotechnology, biomedicine energy, materials
7 science, microelectronics, water resources, aerospace,
8 telecommunications, manufacturing science and similar research
9 areas. Money from the fund shall be expended on warrants of
10 the secretary of finance and administration upon vouchers
11 signed by the ~~[executive director of the commission on]~~
12 secretary of higher education or the ~~[executive director's]~~
13 secretary's authorized representative.

14 B. Grants from the fund are available to ~~[state~~
15 ~~research universities that are conducting collaborative~~
16 ~~research with corporate and nonprofit organizations]~~ research
17 institutions. A ~~[state research university]~~ research
18 institution may apply for a grant from the fund in accordance
19 with rules promulgated by the ~~[commission on]~~ higher education
20 department. Allocations from the fund shall be based on a
21 competitive process with applications reviewed by a panel of
22 scientific and business experts established by the ~~[commission]~~
23 department. The review panel may determine new research areas
24 and shall judge grant proposals based on excellence in research
25 design and possible innovation ~~[in]~~ and an assessment of a

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1 proposal's projected:

2 (1) cross-disciplinary, multi-campus and
3 higher education-industry research collaboration; [~~The review~~
4 panel may determine new research areas] and

5 (2) benefits for economic development, rural
6 and tribal communities and workforce education and training.

7 C. To apply for a grant, [~~a state research~~
8 ~~university~~] an applicant must have equal or greater matching
9 [funds] money for the proposal from sources other than the
10 state. A grant from the technology enhancement fund shall not
11 be used to supplant matching money that an applicant has
12 expended or encumbered for a previously received grant.

13 D. As used in this section, "research institution"
14 means Navajo technical university, New Mexico state university,
15 the New Mexico institute of mining and technology or the
16 university of New Mexico."

17 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--**Seventy million dollars
18 (\$70,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
19 technology enhancement fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2025
20 and subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of the fund. Any
21 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a
22 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.