

Synopsis of SCONC Amendment

Senate Conservation Committee amendment to Senate Bill 504 edits Section 1.B. and 1.D. for clarification. It also adds a new paragraph E. to this Section allowing the possession of live feral hogs in secure enclosures for domestication or consumption and allows transporting them to places of slaughter or processing.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DGF indicates none.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

DGF indicates none.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DGF reiterates its statement in response to the original bill that “...the presence and potential increase in the number and distribution of feral hogs in New Mexico represent risks to wildlife including disease transmission, habitat degradation, and predation. Limiting these risks will better enable the Department to maintain or increase wildlife populations and associated recreational opportunities they provide.”

Synopsis of Original Bill

This legislation seeks to make it illegal to import or transport live feral hogs to or within New Mexico; or to hold for breeding, sell, or operate commercial feral hog hunting operations within New Mexico.

There is no appropriation attached to this legislation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMLB advises that the increase of the Feral Hogs in the United States has become a serious issue. The increase in the population in New Mexico is having a significant impact on the farmers and ranchers due to their destructive nature. The agency adds that the health issues created in livestock by Feral Hogs include the following:

Viral Diseases: Bovine herpesvirus, Classic swine fever (hog cholera), Coronaviral infections, Encephalomyocarditis, Foot and Mouth disease, Influenza, Louping-ill virus, Papillomavirus infections, Parainfluenza virus, Pestivirus infections, Pseudorabies, Rabbit hemorrhagic disease, Rinderpest, San Miguel sea lion virus, Swinepox virus, Vesicular stomatitis

Bacterial Diseases: Anthrax, Brucellosis, Erysipelothrix infections, Helicobacter spp., Leptospirosis, Bovine tuberculosis, Pasteurellosis, Plague, Salmonellosis, Yersiniosis

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DGF notes that the presence and potential increase in the number and distribution of feral hogs in New Mexico represent risks to wildlife including disease transmission, habitat degradation, and predation. Limiting these risks will better enable the department to maintain or increase wildlife populations and associated recreational opportunities they provide.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DGF states: “Feral hogs are not classified as a game species thus the department does not regulate, manage, or enforce the hunting of these populations.”

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB594 (Duplicate)

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None noted by respondents.

ALTERNATIVES

NMLB states: “No economically reasonable alternatives to this type of law is known.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

DGF indicates that the department will continue to be concerned about the presence and potential increase in the number and distribution of feral hogs in New Mexico and the associated risks to wildlife of disease transmission, habitat degradation, and predation.

NMLB adds that potentially unmanageable increase in the population in an ecologically and economically animal that also can carry threats to livestock health.

AMENDMENTS

None suggested by respondents.

BW/svb:mc