

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

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 190

**SHORT TITLE:** Gila Regional Cancer Center Bonds

**SPONSOR:** Sens. Ramos and Brantley/Rep. Terrazas

**LAST UPDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_      **ORIGINAL DATE:** 2/4/26      **ANALYST:** Carswell

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
\$5,735.3		Nonrecurring	Rural County Cancer Treatment Fund – Bond Proceeds

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

### Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

New Mexico Finance Authority

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Senate Bill 190

Senate Bill 190 (SB190) authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to sell revenue bonds for a term of no more than 20 years and in an amount up to \$5.7 million for capital improvements and equipment for the cancer center at the Gila Regional Medical Center in Grant County and appropriates the proceeds of the bonds to NMFA for the authorized purposes.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Created in 2006 in NMFA, the rural county cancer treatment fund receives a distribution of 0.53 percent from cigarette tax revenues. NMFA has been authorized to issue bonds supported by revenues to the fund for five projects since 2006, according to the agency, for the Gila Regional Medical Center and Nor-Lea General Hospital. Two bonds remain outstanding with a principal balance of \$2.4 million.

Cigarette tax revenue to the fund totaled \$330 thousand in FY25, a decline of 33 percent since 2020, when the last bonds were issued, according to NMFA. NMFA states the term for proposed

and existing bonds must be extended from 20 years to 30 years to support repayment of the bonds that would be authorized by SB190.

NMFA proposes the following amendments to address this issue:

On page 3, line 16: strike the word “twenty” and replace in lieu thereof “thirty.”

On page 4, line 6: strike the word “twenty” and replace in lieu thereof “thirty.”

On page 6, line 2: strike the word “twenty” and replace in lieu thereof “thirty.”

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMFA submitted the following analysis:

In addition to modeling the debt service with a declining cigarette tax revenue stream, the NMFA structures the bonds with a projected minimum coverage of 1.5x (\$100 debt service for each \$150 of cigarette tax revenue). With the higher than expected declines of more than 10 percent for each of the last two years, the coverage on the existing bonds is approximately 1.25x. Any excess cigarette tax collections are held in the rural county cancer treatment fund and used as a debt service reserve fund. If the bonds are restructured with 30-year terms, and cigarette tax distributions decline less than the revised projection of 4 percent, the excess distribution will be used to retire bonds early.

CC/sgs/hg/sgs