

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

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Padilla **ORIGINAL DATE** _____
LAST UPDATED 01/23/15 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Division Of Conservancy District Districts **SB** 68

ANALYST Cerny

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of the Attorney General (AGO)
 Department of Finance & Administration (DFA)
 Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 68 amends Sections 73-14-19-22, NMSA 1978, Chapter 73, Special Districts which addresses the composition of boards of directors for conservancy districts. Both the existing statute and proposed bill provides for seven board members—three members from the most populous county, one from each of the remaining counties (three members); and one at-large member.

Under the proposed amendment however, the three seats from the most populous county would be subdivided into three compacted districts with acreage apportioned as equally as possible. One director will be elected from each of these compacted districts.

Board members will be required to have or establish residency in their respective districts no later than January 1, 2017. The bill repeals conflicting provisions in Section 73-14-22.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB 68 carries no appropriation and has no fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Proposed corrections and changes to the current statute will allow the conservancy districts to be better represented in the most populous district. Thus, the changes as proposed in this bill will affect specifically Bernalillo County in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District board of directors is currently represented by one member each from Sandoval County, Socorro County, and Valencia County; one member at-large, who may reside in any of the listed counties, and three members from Bernalillo County. Currently the three members on the Board representing Bernalillo County all reside in the northwest sector of that county.

If SB 68 is enacted, the new board members will be elected from and by the qualified electors of each compact district.

The changes also include a repeal in Section 73-14-22 board of directors; apportionment to be moved to Section 73-14-19. The apportionment of the three compact single-member districts will be completed by January 1, 2017, which will coincide with the new election of board members.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

AGO analysis recommends that adding “either” in Section A(2) after “resides” makes for easier reading comprehension.

CAC/je/aml