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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/14/16

SPONSOR Woods LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Northeastern NM Groundwater Mapping SB 64

ANALYST Mulligan

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$1,724.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to

- Relates to HB 78, which would appropriate \$400.0 to the NMSU Water Resources Research Institute for an integrated statewide water assessment

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

- Relates to HB 2, Section 4J Higher Education, appropriation to New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 64 would appropriate \$1.7 million from the general fund to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to conduct a hydrogeologic study of, and map groundwater aquifers, in Colfax, Harding, Mora, and Union counties.

According to the EMNRD, the work that would be funded by the bill would be part of an ongoing aquifer mapping program by New Mexico Tech. According to the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, the aquifer mapping program provides characterization and analysis of aquifer resources and develops models to predict ground water flow. This includes monitoring aquifer levels over time and the presence or absence of groundwater contaminants.

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The study would assist in characterizing the quantity, quality, and distribution of groundwater in the northeastern portion of the state which has limited water resources.

The bill is sponsored by the Senate Water and Natural Resources Committee.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of FY17 would not revert to the general fund. Funding for this study is not contained in the LFC appropriation recommendation.

MM/jo/jle