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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Godbey DATE TYPED: 02/11/03 HB 560

SHORT TITLE: Bear-Proof Garbage Containers SB _____

ANALYST: Gilbert

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04			
	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 560 amends NMSA 1978, § 17-1-14, to enable the state game commission to identify areas of the state on public and private lands where bear-proof garbage containers would be required. The primary purpose of this bill is to reduce human-bear interactions.

Significant Issues

Several urban areas of the state experience a high incidence of human-bear encounters, leading to nuisance bear complaints and creating potential human safety hazards. Garbage is a major factor in attracting bears to urban areas. As a result, Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) employees must relocate or destroy nuisance bears.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMDGF may be required to address fewer nuisance bear problems if bear-proof garbage containers are mandated in certain areas of the state.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to NMDGF, no mechanism currently exists to mandate bear-proof garbage containers. However, NMDGF currently gives advice to citizens interested in voluntarily bear-proofing of their garbage containers.

HB 560 does not contain a penalty for non-compliance.

RLG/yr