

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 FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/21/08

SPONSOR Nunez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 86

SHORT TITLE Study Increased Access To Fresh Foods SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$25.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 83, HB 164 and HB 180.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

No Response

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 86 appropriates \$25.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to conduct a study to develop alternative strategies through which state funds may be used to increase means of access of New Mexicans to sources of fresh foods.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$25.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

This request was not submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for

review and is not included in the Department’s funding recommendation for FY09.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that according to the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, HB86 would fund research in support of the Manny Herrera Access to Health Foods Act and food access challenges in New Mexico. HB86 would build on initial research done to assess challenges and barriers and would help to provide substantive options to help guide the Healthy Food Initiative Board proposed within HB180.

The PED states that developing alternative strategies to increase access and consumption of New Mexico’s fresh foods has the potential to stimulate the economy. Purchasing New Mexico-grown produce and livestock provides income to the farmers and ranchers of New Mexico.

- According to the Rural Sociological Society, New Mexico has 12 non-metro counties with low food access (50% of residents must go more than 10 miles to a food store) and six counties that are considered “food deserts” (100% of the residents must travel more than 10 miles to access food).
- A New Mexico 2006 market-basket comparison found that food in smaller rural stores is as much as 70% more expensive than the same food purchased in large, metro-area supermarkets, and that the availability of fresh produce is considerably less (New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council).
- Most people do not eat the recommended five servings a day of fresh fruits and vegetables (New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council).
- The actual cost of produce has risen as much as 40% over 15 years (New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council).
- To increase the consumption of healthy foods, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has recommended that governments create economic stimulus programs and public/private partnerships to promote the creation and expansion of retail grocery operations (New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council).
- Modest investments of private and public funds have developed a new supermarket on the Jicarilla Apache Nation and a co-op food store in Dixon, New Mexico (New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council).

RELATIONSHIP

HB83, Market NM-Grown Fruit & Vegetables: requires NMSU to market New Mexico fruits, vegetables and food products at domestic and international trade shows.

HB164, Local Fruits & Vegetables in School Lunches requires NMSU to purchase New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables and to administer a program ensuring that the fresh fruits and vegetables are delivered to school lunch programs statewide; and

HB180, Manny Herrera Access to Healthy Foods Act: creates the Healthy Food Initiatives Board, defines board duties, and creates the Healthy Food Initiatives Fund, among other provisions.