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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/22/10
 SPONSOR HJC LAST UPDATED 02/08/10 HB 57/HJCS
 SHORT TITLE Livestock Crimestoppers Act SB _____
 ANALYST Woods

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands) *

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$5.0	\$5.0	\$10.0	Recurring	Other State Funds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

* Fiscal implication provided by the Livestock Board

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Judiciary Committee substitute for House Bill 57 seeks to add a new section to the Livestock Code which establishes a Livestock Crime Stoppers Program at the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) to assist the NMLB in the arrest and conviction of persons who commit livestock-related crimes. The program allows the NMLB to offer rewards to people who provide information that leads to a defendant's arrest, prosecution or conviction for a livestock-related crime.

The legislation defines a "livestock related crime" as a crime involving livestock, including theft, unlawful branding, unlawful killing or mutilation, illegal movement or other criminal offense involving livestock contained in the Criminal Code or The Livestock Code. With respect to animal cruelty, "livestock related crime" means the crime of extreme cruelty to animals as established in the Criminal Code. NMLB additionally notes that the legislation addresses the following:

HB57/HJCS allows for the board to promulgate rules to determine the amount of the rewards that will be paid and determine how the information received by the program

will be collected and transmitted to the proper livestock inspector or other law enforcement agency. The board will promulgate rules to ensure the confidentiality of crime stopper records and the identity of persons who provide information to the program will be maintained.

HB57/HJCS states that the NMLB may enter into contracts for program management and advertising, such as contracts with other crime stoppers programs. In HB57/HJCS the NMLB may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations and contributions made pursuant to court order to administer the program and pay for the rewards offered. In HB57/HJCS the board shall deposit the funds received in a separate bank account in a federally insured financial institution.

HB57/HJCS also establishes that money for rewards and other expenses of the program shall be disbursed from the separate bank account as directed by the director in accordance with financial control mechanisms as established by the board and the Department of Finance and Administration and the account shall be subject to the board's annual audit.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMLB indicates that the legislation improves the ability of the NMLB to arrest and convict persons who commit livestock-related crimes in the state of New Mexico and thereby protecting owners of livestock.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMLB advises that all fiscal costs associated with implementing the Livestock Crime Stoppers Program in FY11 will be absorbed in the NMLB's appropriated operating budget for FY11. The funding source for the administration of the program will be other state funds; no general fund will be utilized. The total expected costs of administering the program in FY11 is \$5,000. Five to ten percent of the time, and thereby the salary, of a current FTE will be utilized to administer the program and respond to calls which totals about \$4,000. Finally, there will be costs, totaling \$1,000, associated with training agency personnel on the new program.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

NOLB states that, "there will not be a Livestock Crime Stoppers Program established in the agency and, the NMLB will continue to be limited in its ability to gather sufficient evidence to arrest and convict persons who commit livestock-related crimes."

BW/mew