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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Muñoz ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/14
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE 4 Corners Horse Disposition SB 328
ANALYST Martinez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 238

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 328 appropriates \$500 thousand dollars from the General Fund to the horse shelter rescue fund for expenditure in FY15 to support the feeding and humane care of horses in the four corners region of New Mexico. The duties will be administered by the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall not revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Drought conditions have caused a dramatic increase in the number of animal cruelty cases, because some individuals have abandoned or neglected their livestock. The board reports that from FY10 through FY13, the number of animal cruelty cases rose from 67 to over 160, a 240 percent increase. Horses account for most of the reported cases.

In years 2012 and 2013 the NMLB rescued nearly 400 horses. With an average stay of 5 days at a feeding cost of \$10 a day, basic veterinary care, which can run up to \$100 per horse, not to include emergency veterinary care, the expense quickly becomes a financial burden for the NMLB.

RM/ds