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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/20/16

SPONSOR Gomez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 150

SHORT TITLE Boll Weevil & Pink Bollworm Monitoring SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Mulligan

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

- Relates to HB2, Section 4J, Higher Education, appropriation to New Mexico State University

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico State University, Department of Agriculture

### SUMMARY

HB 150 would appropriate \$50.0 to New Mexico State’s Department of Agriculture for the purpose of monitoring the boll weevil and pink bollworm situation in south central and southwest New Mexico.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation is not included in the LFC recommendation for FY17. Unexpended balances would revert at the end of FY17. NMSU reports that the funding would assist in offsetting recent reductions in federal funding.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The boll weevil is a beetle that feeds on cotton buds and flowers, while pink bollworm larvae chew through cotton lint to feed on cotton seeds.

In 1996, the Legislature passed the Cotton Boll Weevil Control Act (76-6A-1 through 16 NMSA 1978), and in 2001, passed the Pink Bollworm Control Act (76-6B-1 through 12 NMSA 1978), both of which charge the director of the NMSU Department of Agriculture with determining whether critically infested or threatened agricultural areas in New Mexico exist and for taking action if so.

NMSU indicates that funding provided under the legislation would be distributed to private eradication committees and entities authorized under the statutes indicated above to support monitoring efforts. Both pests have been virtually eliminated in recent years under programs funded with private, state, and federal financial resources.

Advocates for this funding cite the risks to the cotton crop industry and its associated economic benefit to the state if monitoring efforts lag and the insect pests begin to reinfest crops in the future.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

It is expected that NMSU conducts on-going monitoring of the activity levels of these insects as required under the New Mexico statutes indicated above, and that the proposed appropriation would provide additional financial resources for additional and more extensive monitoring.

MM/jo