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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wooley ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/18
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB 156

SHORT TITLE Lea & Roosevelt Weather Modification SB _____

ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
	\$185.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Not Received From
Office of the State Engineer

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 156 appropriates \$185,000 from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission for a weather modification program in Lea and Roosevelt counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$185,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Although the OSE did not submit an analysis of this bill, an analysis for a similar bill introduced in the 2014 session stated:

The Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC) notes, weather modification in New Mexico is governed by the Weather Control Act (75-3 NMSA 1978) which

requires a licensee to file with the ISC a final evaluation of the project within ninety days after conclusion of any weather control or cloud modification project. Each evaluation report shall contain such information as required by the commission in order to aid in research and development in weather modification and to aid in the protection of life and property. The Weather Control Act allows the ISC to make all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the act; make any field investigations and inspections necessary to the enforcement of the act; make periodic reports on weather control and cloud modification activities in this state together with evaluations of the results of such activities; and make recommendations to the legislature on needed legislation in the regard to weather control and cloud modification. The regulations promulgated by the ISC require the applicant provide a quantification analysis of operational results.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

House Bill 2 of the 2013 legislative session included a special appropriation of \$100,000 from the general fund to the Office of the State Engineer for a weather modification program in Lea and Roosevelt counties; however, the governor line item vetoed this appropriation.

CJ/jle