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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/2022

SPONSOR Stefanics LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Statewide Agricultural Programs SB 139

ANALYST Fischer

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY22	FY23		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 139 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to New Mexico State University for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture for continued support of statewide agricultural education programs. There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2023 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC general fund budget recommendation for NMDA for FY23 is \$12.8 million, a \$500 thousand increase from FY22.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico State University reports that the \$250 thousand appropriation in SB139 would be used to modernize its agriculture education course-of-study, which was last revised in 2004, to reflect current and emerging needs, including renewable energy, digital technology, and artificial intelligence.

According to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the \$250 thousand appropriation in SB139 would also support the department in promoting other statewide agricultural education programs such as

- NMDA’s biennial agriculture educational institute;
- New Mexico FFA (formerly known as the Future Farmers of America);
- New Mexico agriculture in the classroom;
- Kids, cows and more;
- Cooking with kids; and
- The La Semilla food center.

New Mexico State University reports that the number of students in FFA in New Mexico increased from 2,809 to 4,342 students in 2021—a 55 percent increase.

ALTERNATIVES

New Mexico State University noted that “being this bill refers to education, funding should go [to] the [New Mexico State University] College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences that not only trains agriculture education teachers, but also administers the FFA and 4-H program.”

MF/acv