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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Soules LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 1/20/2023
SHORT TITLE Center for Dryland Resilience BILL NUMBER Senate Bill 78
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$14,995.0	Nonrecurring	General

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University

University of New Mexico

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 78

Senate Bill 78 appropriates almost \$15 million from the general fund to New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the purpose of creating a dryland resilience center. The center would be a collaborative effort among NMSU, the University of New Mexico, Eastern New Mexico University, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology tasked with diagnosing and predicting vulnerabilities in dryland systems and developing strategies for dryland management.

The bill would not allow for expenditures in excess of \$2.999 million per year and would authorize funds to be used through the end of FY28.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$14.995 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As the recipient institution, NMSU will be tasked with leading the collaborative effort between the four higher education institutions and determining how appropriated funding will be spent. Administration of the center will require additional faculty and staff time at the participating institutions.

CJ/mg/hg/al