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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stefanics/Lopez/Ortiz y Pino/McKenna LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/23/23
BILL
SHORT TITLE NM-Grown Produce For Senior Meals NUMBER Senate Bill 353
ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill

Senate Bill 353 (SB353) appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) to purchase New-Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for senior center meal programs; provided that none of this appropriation is used for associated program administration or promotion.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund. Although Senate Bill 353 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new grant program could create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost is assumed to be recurring.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

ALTSD reported the FY23 appropriation for this program is \$597.6 thousand, and the increase in the bill would provide more New Mexico Grown (healthy, locally grown, fresh food)

opportunities for participating senior services providers and senior centers. The appropriation contained in this bill would allow for additional applications and for current applicants to apply for more funding.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTSD also reported:

- The Aging and Long-Term Services Department has administered the New Mexico Grown program for three years and recognizes the increased need for healthy locally sourced food for our state's seniors and older adults.
- In 2021, 90 percent of New Mexicans 60 years or older reported they ate less than five (5) servings of fruits/vegetables a day (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, together with New Mexico Department of Health).
- In 2020, 8 percent of New Mexicans aged 60 years and older were food insecure, and this is the tenth highest rate in the U.S. (Gundersen et al. 2021).
- There are currently (FY23) 67 senior centers throughout the state participating in the New Mexico Grown Program. Requests for access to the New Mexico Grown Program from providers and senior centers have incrementally increased. At the end of FY21 there were 38 participating senior centers, 50 participating senior centers at the end of FY22, and in the beginning of FY23 there are currently 67 participating senior centers. ALTSD anticipates that as awareness about access to healthy, locally produced food is becoming more prevalent, the number of senior center participants will expand as shown in the growth of the program from FY22 to current.
- During FY23, the available production and offerings from approved growers and farmers expanded to include local meat.
- The number of farmers and food hubs participating in the program has increased. Added funding, will increase the economic viability for local farmers and growers.

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