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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	<u>Gonzales</u>	LAST UPDATED	<u>2/28/23</u>
		ORIGINAL DATE	<u>2/28/23</u>
SHORT TITLE	<u>Pollinator Protection Plan</u>	BILL NUMBER	<u>Senate Memorial 43</u>
		ANALYST	<u>Jorgensen</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
		>\$20.0	0	>\$20.0	Nonrecurring	NMDA Operating

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Memorial 43

Senate Memorial 43 requests the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to convene a working group to consider acceptance of a pollinator protection plan as proposed by the New Mexico beekeepers association. The working group would develop recommendations for assessing the number of urban and rural beekeepers statewide, creating educational material based on pollinator protection plan, and report to the appropriate legislative interim committee.

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.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SM43 requires NMDA to convene a work group and develop educational materials but does not include an appropriation to support these activities. Therefore, any cost incurred by NMDA would be absorbed in the current operating budget. The memorial states that NMDA will assess a plan developed by the beekeepers association. This would likely limit the role played by NMDA to observational, thereby limiting the cost incurred by the agency. Therefore, the cost is likely to be less than \$20 thousand to pay costs of convening the group and developing educational materials.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico beekeepers association notes:

This Pollinator Protection Plan (PPP) does not propose restriction of the use of pesticides; rather it seeks to complement existing label and rule requirements to protect bees when pesticides are used in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings. It contains voluntary Best Management Practices for pesticide users, landowners/growers, and beekeepers in hopes of creating the following positive outcomes:

- Ensuring positive relationships among beekeepers, landowners and pesticide applicators.
- Reducing pollinator exposure to pesticides.
- Ensuring a robust apiary industry, native pollinator population, and agriculture economy.
- Continued compliance with pesticide label requirements and New Mexico rules to protect pollinators.

CJ/rl/hg