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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____
ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/24
BILL
SHORT TITLE Statewide Composting Program NUMBER Senate Bill 79
ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

FY24	FY25	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$65.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

Agency Analysis Received From
New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 79

Senate Bill 79 appropriates \$65 thousand from the general fund to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture housed at New Mexico State University for the purpose of assessing the viability of a statewide composting program and convening a working group.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$65 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMDA reports:

Nationwide estimates show that, in 2018, only roughly 13-15% of compostable waste was actually composted.

The 2019 Healthy Soil Act (76-25-1 to 76-25-5 NMSA 1978) directs NMDA to “identify ways to increase the generation and use of compost to build healthy soils.” In its implementation of the Healthy Soil Act, NMDA has funded on-farm composting projects through projects grants.

SB79 requires NMDA to present its findings and recommendations to an appropriate interim legislative committee by October 1, 2024. This leaves NMDA with less than three months from receiving the FY25 appropriation to complete the working group process and produce the final report.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMDA notes additional staff time would be required to convene, administer, and coordinate the working group and develop the final report. NMDA anticipates covering the additional cost with existing budget and staff.

CJ/rl/hg