



Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

This appropriation provides one million dollars (\$1,000.0) from the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico state university for fiscal year 2027 to support the Double Up Food Bucks program (DUFB). The funding will increase the purchasing power of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) participants, enabling them to buy meat, nuts, eggs, and fresh fruits and vegetables at New Mexico farmers' markets. Any funds not expended or encumbered by the end of fiscal year 2027 (FY27) will revert to the general fund.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal implications to New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA).

NMDA will allocate existing operational resources to support DUFB. NMDA receives an annual (recurring) appropriation from the general fund of \$1,000.0 to support DUFB. HB114 would add an additional \$1,000.0 (non-recurring) appropriation in FY27. The significant difference between HB114 and previous DUFB appropriations is the allowance of other foods (meat, eggs, nuts), rather than limiting purchases to solely fresh fruits and vegetables.

Since 2015, NMDA's partner in managing DUFB has been the New Mexico farmers' marketing association (NMFMA). NMFMA reports that state and private funding for DUFB is used to satisfy required matching funds for the United States department of agriculture's (USDA's) national institute of food and agriculture (NIFA) grants under the federal farm bill. Federal funding leveraged by NMFMA for SNAP DUFB totaled \$2,500.0 in 2025 (\$800.0 annual + one-time \$1,700.0 special make America healthy again (MAHA) appropriation).

There is a risk that USDA NIFA funding could be cut or reduced. If that occurs, the \$1,000.0 appropriation in HB114 would be available in FY 27 to sustain SNAP participant purchasing power.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The DUFB program doubles the value of SNAP benefits when used to purchase New Mexico grown foods at participating farmers' markets, farm stands, mobile markets, community supported agriculture (CSAs), and participating grocery stores in 27 counties. In 2025, approximately 460,000 New Mexico residents, representing 21 percent of the state's population, received SNAP funds; the highest share in the nation.

DUFB strengthens food security by stretching household food budgets and increasing access to healthy, locally produced foods, improving diet quality and long-term health outcomes. Per NMFMA, the total number of people fed by DUFB in 2024 was 137,142, and 148,438 in 2025.

At the same time, DUFB channels additional food dollars to New Mexico farmers, ranchers, and local food businesses, supporting rural economies and generating positive multiplier effects across communities. Per NMFMA, SNAP DUFB sales of New Mexico grown fresh fruits and vegetables total: \$1,755,426 in 2024; \$1,900,000 in 2025; and projects \$2,600,000 in 2026 with the HB114 expansion.

Traditionally limited to fruits and vegetables, the DUFB program has not permitted SNAP purchases of New Mexico-origin meat, eggs, and nuts. HB114 expands DUFB eligibility to include these products, creating new market opportunities for ranchers, poultry producers, nut growers, and related value-added processors. By

incentivizing SNAP purchases of locally produced proteins and nuts, HB114 increases direct-to-consumer demand at farmers' markets and other local outlets, helping small and mid-scale operations move more product, stabilize revenue, and capture greater value within the state. According to the 2022 U.S. census of agriculture, the percentage of New Mexico grown food sold directly to consumers, retail markets, institutions, food hubs and value-added products sold was 11 percent, up from 8.5 percent in 2017.

This expansion directly complements New Mexico's ongoing investments in the meat processing sector, including the reinstatement of a state meat inspection program and local meat processing grants by helping ensure the newly supported and inspected facilities have consistent local demand for their products. Together, these efforts strengthen in-state supply chains, support value-added processing, and maximize the economic return of public investments by keeping more food dollars circulating within New Mexico's agricultural economy.

Currently, SNAP participants can use DUFB at 65 locations statewide, with approximately 700 primarily small and mid-scale farmers participating in 2025. Value chain coordination efforts supported in part by NMDA have further expanded market opportunities for New Mexico producers, amplifying the program's overall impact.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

No performance implications to NMDA.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

No administrative implications for NMDA.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

N/A

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

HB114 directs the appropriations to the board of regents of New Mexico state university. It is assumed that the appropriation will be to the board of regents of New Mexico state university for the New Mexico department of agriculture to support the DUFB program.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

N/A

### **ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The \$1,000.0 appropriation in HB114 would not be available in FY27 to enhance the buying power of SNAP participants through the DUFB program to buy meat, eggs, nuts, and fresh fruits and vegetables at New Mexico farmers' markets, farm stands, mobile markets, CSAs, and participating grocery stores.

Not enacting HB114 would impact access to healthy, locally produced foods for SNAP participants by eliminating the added purchasing power provided through the DUFB program. This could also impact food insecurity and

limit the consumption of nutritious local foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, eggs, and nuts. In addition, New Mexico farmers, ranchers, farmers' markets, and related value-added agribusinesses could lose increased sales and income generated by the program, impacting local and rural economies and reducing the economic multiplier effect of federal SNAP dollars.

## **AMENDMENTS**

N/A