

LFC Requester:	Noah Montano
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date 1/28/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Prepared: _____
Bill SB 63 Original Correction _____
Number: _____ Amend _____ Substitute _____
 ment _____ ute _____

Spons Craig Brandt Steve **Agency**
or: Lanier **Name and**
Code
Number: NMDA - 199
Person Writing
Analysis: Jeff Witte
Short Animal Welfare **Pho** _____
Title: Fund Spay and **ema** Jheitz@nmda.nm
 Neuter Subaccount **ne:** 575-294-3817 **il:** su.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	\$2,000	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected

Total						
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(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

Senate Bill 63 (SB 63) amends the Animal Welfare Act to create the county dog and cat spay and neuter subaccount within the animal welfare program fund and appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to support county-administered spay and neuter services for individual dog and cat owners. The bill limits use of the subaccount to contracts between counties and licensed veterinarians and provides non-reverting funding beginning in FY27.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There would be no fiscal implications to the New Mexico department of agriculture (NMDA).

SB 63 appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the county dog and cat spay and neuter subaccount for expenditure in FY27 and subsequent fiscal years. The appropriation is non-reverting.

The bill does not establish an allocation formula or cap on county expenditures.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill establishes a dedicated funding mechanism for county-administered spay and neuter services intended to reduce stray animal populations, animal shelter intake, and euthanasia rates. By limiting eligibility to counties and requiring contracts with licensed veterinarians, the bill emphasizes direct service delivery and veterinary oversight but narrows access to funding.

Senate Bill 63 does not provide direct access to funds for municipalities, tribal governments, or nonprofit organizations. In jurisdictions where animal control or shelter operations are primarily administered by municipalities or tribal governments, implementation may depend on intergovernmental coordination with counties, which could affect consistent statewide access to services.

Counties with limited veterinary capacity, particularly rural counties, may face challenges implementing spay and neuter services despite availability of funds. Counties with established relationships with veterinary providers may be better positioned to utilize the appropriation.

Approximately \$5.9 million has been generated through the spay and neuter program fee established in the New Mexico Commercial Feed Act and administered through the statewide spay and neuter subaccount of the animal care and facility fund. The creation of a separate county-specific subaccount may create overlapping spay and neuter funding structures, and coordination between programs may be needed to ensure efficient use of funds.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not include specific performance measures or outcome requirements, such as reductions in shelter intake or euthanasia rates. However, existing Animal Welfare Program reporting requirements to the Legislative Finance Committee remain in place and may provide some program-level oversight.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There would be no administrative implications for NMDA.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

NA

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not define criteria for distributing funds among counties or prioritizing funding based on need, population, or shelter intake rates. Clarification may be required through rulemaking.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NA

ALTERNATIVES

NA

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB 63 is not enacted, counties will not have access to a dedicated funding source for dog and cat spay and neuter services.

AMENDMENTS

NA