LFC Requester:	Emily Hilla

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 Prepared: *1/29/2026*
Bill Number: *SB 79*

Check all that apply:
Original *X* Correction __
Amendment __ Substitute __

Sponsor: Nicole Tobiassen
Short Title: Mosquito Surveillance

Agency Name and Code Number: NMED 667
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

0

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	**FY27**		
0	2,000.0	nonrecurring	General Fund

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or	Fund Affected
FY26	**FY27**	**FY28**		
0	1,000.0 (approx)	1,000.0 (approx)	non	

(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				2,000.0	non	

(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:
Appropriates $2 million (GF) to the Department of Health for use in FYs 2027 and 2028 for mosquito surveillance, prevention, and mitigation. DOH may use up to $1.5 million to provide grants to local governments and state educational institutions for mosquito surveillance, prevention, and mitigation projects.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Up to $1.5 million may be distributed through grants to local governments and educational institutions, but the bill does not specify minimum capacity requirements or technical standards. Many rural counties, tribes, and small municipalities may lack entomological expertise, laboratory access, GIS capacity, or procurement infrastructure to effectively design and implement mosquito surveillance or control programs, leading to uneven program quality and limited statewide impact. If the Environmental Health Division of the New Mexico Environment Department were included in this legislation, it would require an additional FTE position at an annual expense of $152,000 to support interagency coordination.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill creates a new time-limited funding stream. The Department of Health (DOH) will need to design eligibility criteria, application processes, evaluation metrics, grant agreements, reporting requirements, and compliance mechanisms within a short timeframe. This may require new staffing, rulemaking, or internal reprogramming. More importantly, it may also lead to interagency coordination and role clarity challenges.

Mosquito surveillance and environmental mitigation activities overlap with existing responsibilities of other agencies, particularly the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), local environmental health programs, and potentially the Department of Game and Fish or Department of Agriculture.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation is time-limited (FY27–FY28) with any remaining funds reverting back to the General Fund at the end of FY28. Mosquito surveillance and disease vector control are inherently long-term public health functions necessitated by climate change. Without a sustainability mechanism or recurring funding strategy, programs may be discontinued just as baseline data, trained staff, and community engagement are being established, reducing return on investment.

Additionally, the bill does not require standardized data collection, integration with existing surveillance platforms, or public reporting. Without alignment to existing systems—such as NMED's Online Environmental Map data (see below), CDC ArboNET, or state epidemiological reporting—data generated by funded projects may not be interoperable, limiting their usefulness for early warning, spatial risk modeling, or public communication.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The primary administrative risk is that the appropriation establishes funding without a governing program architecture, interagency coordination framework, or sustainability strategy. Without additional statutory guidance or strong administrative leadership, the program may result in fragmented, short-lived projects with limited statewide disease prevention impact.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

While the Department of Health is tasked with monitoring mosquitos as disease vectors, the Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) of the New Mexico Environment Department engages in complementary activities by protecting public health in food facilities, liquid waste systems, and public pools and spas. These programs entail proactively addressing emerging disease risks. Specifically, EHB addresses growing health vulnerabilities, such as increased exposure to foodborne illness, unsafe drinking water, bacteria, and other disease agents, particularly those transmitted through environmental disease vectors via monitoring and public notifications. EHB has also proposed a pilot program focused on strengthened outreach, including a train-the-trainer initiative and a dedicated disease vector education program, aimed at improving early warning, public education, and industry engagement, reducing inspection failures, and shifting the Bureau toward a more preventive, education-driven model of public health protection. Concurrently, the New Mexico Environment Department maintains an Online Geospatial Resources in the form of openly accessible data sets and an interactive environmental map (https://gis.web.env.nm.gov/oem/?map=egis) These allow public access to data on environmental health hazards, including contaminated surface waters and disease information such as COVID, and could serve as an ideal platform for expanding public-facing information on mosquito infestations and mosquito-borne disease reservoirs.

Finally, the bill authorizes surveillance, prevention, and mitigation but does not address regulatory authority for control methods (e.g., larvicides, adulticides, habitat modification), environmental compliance requirements, or community consent protocols. This may create legal and operational uncertainty with other agencies, especially for mitigation activities involving chemical or biological interventions.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The legislation lacks explicit outcome measures (e.g., reduction in vector density, improved disease detection rates, geographic coverage thresholds). This will make it difficult to evaluate program effectiveness, justify future funding, or demonstrate public health impact to policymakers and the public.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The legislation lacks any equity or prioritization framework. It does not direct funds toward populations or regions at highest epidemiological risk, such as low-income communities with poor drainage infrastructure, agricultural irrigation zones, or communities with limited healthcare access. As a result, funding may be allocated based on grant-writing capacity rather than actual public health need.

ALTERNATIVES

Other policy alternatives to the proposed mosquito surveillance appropriation could provide stronger, more sustainable public health outcomes. One option is to establish an interagency program with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), working in formal coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Such a program would recognize that mosquito risk is fundamentally driven by environmental conditions and that NMED already maintains field inspection capacity, relevant regulatory authority, and a statewide GIS platform suitable for public-facing surveillance. A second, more structural alternative would be to create a permanent Disease Vector Surveillance Program in statute, supported by recurring funding and standardized data reporting, which would institutionalize long-term capacity and allow for meaningful trend analysis and alignment with federal public health programs. A third approach would focus on targeted regional pilot programs in high-risk areas of the state, concentrating resources where mosquito burden and disease risk are greatest and generating evidence for future statewide expansion. Another alternative is an environmental infrastructure model that prioritizes physical mitigation—such as drainage improvements, wastewater system upgrades, and remediation of standing water sites—which addresses the root ecological drivers of mosquito proliferation and yields long-term risk reduction. A data-first surveillance model is also viable, emphasizing the development of a comprehensive statewide mosquito intelligence system integrated with existing platforms, enabling early warning, spatial risk modeling, and targeted interventions. Capacity-building approaches could instead invest in expanding the public health workforce by hiring and training dedicated vector control specialists within existing agencies, creating durable institutional expertise. Finally, if a grant-based approach is retained, a stronger performance-based model could be adopted, requiring standardized technical criteria, outcome metrics, public reporting, and matching funds to improve accountability and program effectiveness. Collectively, these alternatives address the central weakness of the current bill—one-time funding without program architecture—by embedding mosquito surveillance and control within durable institutional, data, and environmental systems.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this bill or a similar measure is not enacted, New Mexico will likely continue to face significant and growing vulnerabilities related to mosquito-borne disease, with limited capacity for early detection, targeted intervention, and public education. The absence of dedicated funding will perpetuate the current lack of systematic mosquito surveillance, meaning the state will remain largely reactive rather than preventive in responding to outbreaks of diseases such as West Nile virus, Zika, dengue, and other emerging arboviruses that are expanding geographically due to

climate change and shifting ecological conditions. Without investment, local governments and state agencies will continue to rely on fragmented, ad hoc efforts, resulting in poor baseline data, limited situational awareness, and missed opportunities for early warning and spatial risk mapping. This will increase the likelihood of undetected transmission, delayed public health responses, higher long-term healthcare costs, and greater public exposure, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Additionally, failure to act will foreclose the opportunity to build institutional expertise, public-facing data systems, and interagency coordination mechanisms, leaving New Mexico structurally unprepared for future vector-borne disease threats that are expected to intensify over time.

AMENDMENTS