

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: January 29, 2026 Check all that apply:
Bill Number: SB 79 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Senators Tobiassen/Stewart **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952
Short Mosquito Surveillance **Number:** _____
Title: _____ **Person Writing** Kelly O'Donnell
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	2,000	non	SGF

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						

(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 79 appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) to establish and support mosquito surveillance, prevention, and mitigation activities statewide. The bill authorizes DOH to allocate funding to higher education institutions and local and tribal governments to conduct mosquito surveillance, laboratory testing, data analysis, and related capacity-building activities. The purpose of the appropriation is to improve early detection of mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile virus and other emerging arboviruses, and to support data-driven public health decision-making.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation is nonrecurring and would support activities over multiple fiscal years, with any unexpended balance reverting to the general fund at the end of the expenditure period.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Implementation of this bill would strengthen New Mexico's capacity to detect and respond to mosquito-borne disease threats through a coordinated, statewide surveillance and prevention framework. The University of New Mexico, through the Center for Global Health (CGH), would serve as a critical partner, providing laboratory, data management, and analytic support in coordination with the NMDOH and regional academic and local partners.

New Mexico faces ongoing and increasing risk from mosquito-borne diseases with significant public-health and economic consequences. According to the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), West Nile virus (WNV) transmission occurs annually, with 27 human cases in 2024 and 51 reported cases in 2025, demonstrating sustained statewide risk. Recent mosquito surveillance conducted by the University of New Mexico Center for Global Health (UNM-CGH) in partnership with the City of Albuquerque Urban Biology Division detected WNV in 27.6% of tested mosquito pools, confirming substantial viral circulation in the vector population prior to human case detection. St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) was also identified for the first time in central New Mexico.

Entomological testing further revealed near-universal resistance (~100%) to commonly used adulticides among *Culex* and *Aedes* mosquito populations, significantly reducing the effectiveness of current reactive spraying practices. In addition, *Aedes aegypti*, a vector capable of transmitting dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses, is now established in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. Outside of Albuquerque, systematic mosquito surveillance and resistance monitoring are largely absent, limiting early detection and coordinated response efforts statewide.

The proposed statewide vector surveillance and control program would address these gaps by expanding early detection of arboviruses in mosquito populations, integrating resistance data into decision-making, and enabling safe, targeted, and evidence-based interventions. By shifting from reactive response to proactive prevention, the program is expected to reduce long-term healthcare costs, improve efficiency of public-health expenditures, and strengthen NMDOH's capacity to

meet CDC surveillance and preparedness standards.

New Mexico currently lacks systematic mosquito surveillance and insecticide resistance monitoring outside of the Albuquerque metropolitan area, limiting early detection of arboviral activity and coordinated public-health response statewide. Vector-control interventions in most areas remain reactive, with spraying typically initiated only after human cases are reported, which occurs too late in the transmission cycle to prevent additional infections. Recent entomological testing has identified high levels of resistance to commonly used vector-control products among mosquito populations, reducing the effectiveness of existing control strategies. In addition, the establishment of *Aedes aegypti* in central New Mexico increases the risk of transmission of dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses, expanding the state's vector-borne disease threat beyond historically endemic pathogens.

The program would improve performance by standardizing mosquito surveillance, arboviral testing, and insecticide-resistance monitoring statewide, enabling earlier detection of transmission risk and more efficient targeting of prevention activities. Workforce training and certification conducted in partnership with UNM and other institutions would further enhance public-health capacity and reduce reliance on reactive responses.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this bill is not enacted, New Mexico will continue to lack a coordinated, statewide mosquito surveillance and prevention framework, limiting early detection of arboviral activity and insecticide resistance outside of isolated jurisdictions. Vector-control efforts would likely remain reactive, with interventions initiated only after human cases are reported, reducing their effectiveness and increasing the risk of additional infections. The absence of standardized data and trained personnel may result in inefficient use of public-health resources and continued vulnerability of both urban and rural communities to mosquito-borne disease outbreaks.

AMENDMENTS