

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	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

Bill appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Health for mosquito surveillance, prevention, and mitigation. The bill indicates that up to \$1.5 million of the appropriation can be used to fund grants to local governments and state educational institutions for work related to surveillance, prevention, and mitigation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Mosquito-borne diseases impact many people and animals around the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) has listed mosquitoes as a top threat to public health, primarily in developing countries. Mosquito-borne diseases that impact the United States include West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, St. Louis Encephalitis, Chikungunya & Zika, and Malaria (Source: Texas Hospital Association). Some reports have been made that the Southwest are experiencing increases in mosquito-borne illnesses (Source: Los Alamos Medical Center). While relatively rare, there were 51 cases of West Nile Virus reported in New Mexico in 2025 and more than 500 between 2005 and 2024 (Source: NMHealth).

While specific estimates are not available for New Mexico, the costs to combat mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses is substantial. For example, the costs of West Nile Virus-related health care are estimated to be over \$56 million annually in the United States (Source: West Baton Rouge Parish Government). Potential costs go beyond human illness. For example, one study found that as much as \$61 million may be lost annually in the United States due to the impacts of mosquitoes on livestock (Source: Mosquito Magnet). Other costs such as mosquito prevention and lost tourism are also significant.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Unknown

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

New Mexico State University has the capacity to support and strengthen mosquito surveillance and translate surveillance efforts into targeted prevention and mitigation strategies that can lower disease risk and response costs. NMSU's Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science (The Hubbard Urban Entomology Lab) can help address this need by partnering with local governments and existing NMSU experts to scale appropriate surveillance programs,

including trap selection, sampling frequency, standardized identification pipelines, and pathogen screening where relevant, while also training local health department personnel and implementing efficient workflows for rapid processing and reporting of samples. This pipeline and infrastructure would support the timely deployment of integrated vector management strategies that reduce larval breeding habitats and suppress adult mosquito populations, aiming to build an approach that is effective, sustainable, and environmentally conscious.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The New Mexico Department of Health would administrate appropriated funds from the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Unknown

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Unknown

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Unknown

ALTERNATIVES

Unknown

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

It is unclear what the consequences of not enacting the bill will be. To the extent that appropriations within the bill facilitate reduced mosquito populations and reduced impacts of mosquito-borne illnesses, not enacting the bill would result in the loss of these benefits.

AMENDMENTS