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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 79

**SHORT TITLE:** Mosquito Surveillance

**SPONSOR:** Tobiassen/Stewart

**LAST ORIGINAL**  
**UPDATE:** 2/17/2026 **DATE:** 1/28/2026 **ANALYST:** Hilla

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	\$2,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to the General Appropriation Act as amended by the Senate

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

#### Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Higher Education Department

Department of Health

New Mexico State University

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

New Mexico Environment Department

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 76

Senate Bill 76 (SB76) appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for mosquito surveillance, prevention, and mitigation. DOH may use up to \$1.5 million for grants to local governments and higher education institutions enumerated in the New Mexico Constitution.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$2 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the general fund. Although this bill does not specify future appropriations, multiyear appropriations,

particularly if used to fund services, create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost could become recurring after the funding period.

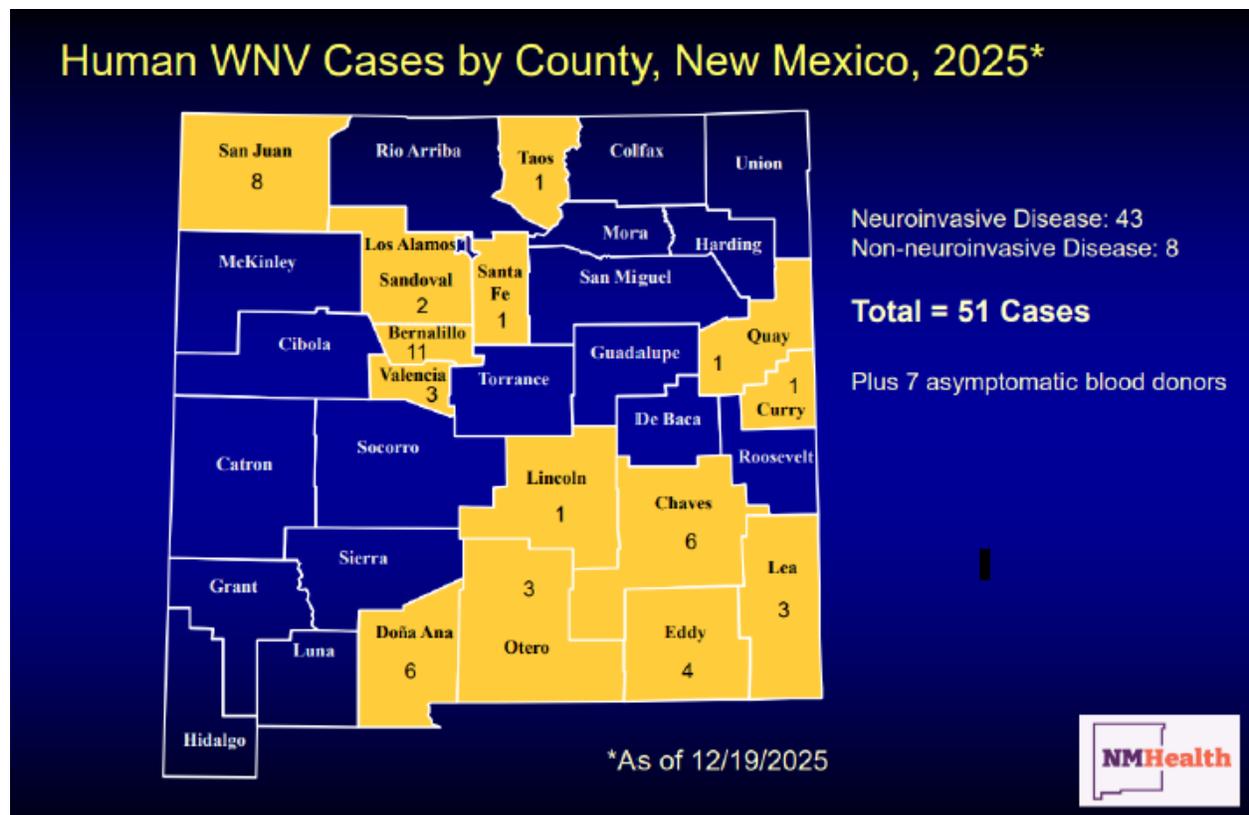
The General Appropriation Act as amended by the Senate, includes a \$1.8 million special nonrecurring appropriation for this purpose.

DOH estimates costs of \$411.1 thousand a year for staff and supplies and around \$588.8 thousand for contracts with universities and tribal and local vector control efforts, for approximately \$1 million per fiscal year of the period of expenditure for the appropriation.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH notes in its analysis the mosquito-borne West Nile virus causes human illness and death in the state every year, and a state-funded integrated mosquito management program would address the ongoing threat created by the permanent and expanding presence of mosquito vectors and arboviruses. The department notes 57 species of mosquitoes are currently in the state, including subspecies that transmit dengue, chikungunya, and Zika viruses that have been expanding. New Mexico does not have mosquito surveillance. The agency says SB79 would allow it to better track the migration of mosquitoes and allow for early outbreak detection.

Various federal health organizations and national health associations support mosquito control programs and legislation.



Source: DOH

As of December 19, 2025, there were 51 cases of West Nile Virus across the state, mostly

affecting Bernalillo County. DOH notes various subspecies of mosquitos, like the Aedes mosquito, is spreading in central and northern parts of New Mexico due to changes in environmental conditions, like seasonal monsoons.

The Higher Education Department notes New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the University of New Mexico have active mosquito research programs.

NMSU notes that while the costs of care in New Mexico are unknown, the costs nationwide for West Nile Virus care are estimated at \$56 million annually. NMSU states that it has the capacity to support and strengthen mosquito surveillance by working with local governments to do things like trap selection, sampling frequency, and pathogen screening where relevant. NMSU could also work with local health departments to work on reducing larval breeding habitats and suppress the adult mosquito population.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) notes that the bill does not require standardized data collection, integration with existing surveillance platforms, or public reporting. Alignment with existing systems should be considered, in addition to providing an interagency coordination framework with DOH, NMED, and necessary institutions, as suggested by NMED. The department adds that the bill does not address regulatory authority for control methods (like habitat medication, adulticides, larvicides, etc.), which may create legal and operational uncertainty with other agencies, especially for mitigation activities involving chemical or biological interventions.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

DOH's state public health entomologist would coordinate statewide mosquito surveillance, prevention, and mitigation programs carried out by higher education institutions and local governments. SB79 aligns with the department's FY25-FY27 strategic plan for improving health outcomes through data-driven decision-making.

NMED points out that without explicit outcome measures like improved disease detection rates, it will be hard to evaluate the effectiveness of SB79's initiative.

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