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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stell DATE TYPED 2/25/05 HB HJM 68

SHORT TITLE Study Ground Water Basin Water Conservation SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI		Indeterminate	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 68 requests that the interstate stream commission, in cooperation with the governor, the state engineer and the secretary of finance and administration, conduct a study of options to conserve and develop ground water resources in the Salt Basin and other ground water basins.

HJM68 requests that the interstate stream commission report its findings and recommendations for legislation to the legislature by December 1, 2005

Significant Issues

Ground water mining is occurring in the Salt basin on the Texas side of the border in southern New Mexico near Dell City, Texas, and in the Ogallala Aquifer on the Texas side of the border in eastern New Mexico. This has the potential to result in declines in ground water resources in New Mexico aquifers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This effort will require considerable staff time and other resources which are not included in the Office of the State Engineer's operating budget. Implementation may be difficult to accomplish in the relatively short period of time allowed for in the joint memorial.

PA/lg