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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sweetser ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/19  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 125

SHORT TITLE Food and Agriculture School Programs SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$350.0	\$350.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill (if bill is amended state "Synopsis of Original Bill")

House Bill 125 appropriates \$350.0 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the purpose of having the New Mexico Department of Agriculture provide food and agriculture education and experiential learning grants to school programs to educate New Mexico students about food and agriculture.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert.

While funding is provided for staff, NMDA points out there is no specific funding for travel and other administrative costs.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to NMDA, youth are removed from the production agriculture as the number of farms and ranches decline which increases the importance of learning to make healthy eating choices. There is a continuing need for agriculture literacy and experiential learning opportunities. Such programs include Future Farmers of America, 4-H, New Mexico Agriculture in Classroom, Kids Kows and More, Cooking with Kids and La Semilla Food Center. This appropriation would enhance these learning activities.

DOH emphasizes that nearly all of New Mexico counties are designated rural or frontier and residents are often underserved. Many communities lack adequate access to stores selling fresh fruit and vegetables making access to locally grown produce important resources.

GAC/al/sb