

LFC Requester:**Jorgensen**

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.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}

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date 1/20/2023

Bill No: HB130

Sponsor: Jack Chatfield
Short Title: Creating a Cloud Seeding
Weather Modification Pilot

Agency Name and Code New Mexico State University/954
Number: _____
Person Writing Clayton Abbey
Phone: 505-239-8821 **Email** nmsufir@nmsu.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		
\$0	\$1,980.0 to be spent FY25-FY27	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

House Bill 130 appropriates \$1,980,000 to the New Mexico State Board of Regents over FY25 through FY27 to develop a “cloud seeding weather modification pilot project. Any funds remaining after FY27 would revert to the General Fund. The project would attempt to demonstrate the efficacy of cloud seeding as a mechanism to mitigate the effects of drought and climate change. The bill directs the **Roosevelt Soil and Water Conservation District** and the **New Mexico Department of Agriculture** to conduct the project. Reporting requirements include creating a permanent record of all pertinent data related to the project (including research related to factors that may be affected by cloud seeding), annual reports to appropriate interim committees, and a final report to the governor and legislature that includes a recommendation for continuation of the pilot project.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal impact besides the \$1,980,000 expenditure described in the bill is unknown.

New Mexico’s agriculture, with more than 24,000 farms and 40 million acres, represents a significant contribution to the State’s economy. Cash receipts for all commodities in 2022 were in excess of \$3.7 billion, with livestock representing approximately 80% and crops representing 20% of total cash receipts. The raw commodities produced by the State’s farmers and ranchers are important inputs and drivers for food processing within the State.

Agriculture in the state is heavily reliant on water to support rangelands and crops. Summer monsoon rainfall, often relied upon for agricultural and ecological systems, varies significantly from year-to-year. With increasingly volatile weather patterns expected, season precipitation will become even more important.

To the extent that cloud seeding can increase seasonal precipitation and support range grassland, pastures, and agricultural production, the bill could have significant impacts on the state’s agricultural production and supply chain.

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that encourages clouds to produce rain or snow by introducing very small ice nuclei, e.g., silver iodide into certain types of clouds. Cloud seeding is used throughout the world and has been shown to have positive moisture effects. For example, some research has suggested that snowpack can be increased between five and 15 percent when cloud seeding is used (DRI, N.D.).

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Roosevelt Soil and Water Conservation District and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture would not be able to pilot a cloud seeding program and stakeholders would not know first-hand if cloud seeding is a viable option to support agricultural production in the state.

AMENDMENTS

N/A