

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:
Original **Amendment** _____
Correction _____ **Substitute** _____

Date Feb 24, 2025
Bill No: SB469

Sponsor: Senator Pete Campos
Short Title: Removal of Fire Hazard Trees

Agency Name and Code Number: Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department - 521
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
n/a	15,000.0	Nonrecurring	general

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
n/a	n/a	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	n/a	n/a

(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

Synopsis: SB469 makes an appropriation of \$15,000,000 to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for Mora County to pay for the removal of hazard trees near the power transmission lines of the Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

It is recommended that provisions within SB469 provide Mora-San Miguel electric cooperative to coordinate with other agencies such as local governments, counties, the Forestry Division (FD), Federal Emergency Management Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, United States Forest Service and others to ensure there is no duplication of efforts or inconsistency in hazard tree mitigation as a result of 2022 Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon (HPCC) wildfire.

Mora-San Miguel are encouraged to coordinate hazard tree mitigation efforts with the Forestry Division, who are engaged in similar efforts across the HPCC burn scar. The lessons learned by FD can be carried over to Mora-San Miguel for effective and efficient removal of hazard tree material providing for not only protection to the cooperative's powerlines but also wildland fire protection and potential creation of additional fuel buffers to limit the spread of potential wildfires.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The timeframe for completing the provisions of SB469 may be limited due to weather, wildland fire conditions, weather and monsoonal patterns and other constraints to remove and or treat hazard tree material within the intended project areas.

Timing of implementation of SB469 may create additional forest health issues due to attraction of bark beetles from felled material and inability to quickly and efficiently removed felled material to avoid forest health related issues to residual forests.

Treatment of felled material should be considered in order to effectively reduce the wildland fire threat or other related threats within the Mora-San Miguel power cooperative corridor. Hazard trees may be felled to eliminate potential hazard to the cooperative's powerline, however if felled material is left on site and not mitigated, this could create a potential secondary, unintended wildfire hazard which would also jeopardize powerline infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB281 is a bill that stipulates utility cooperatives to develop vegetation management plans that minimize wildfire impacts that are caused by utility cooperative owned powerlines. SB469

provisions should be consistent with SB281 vegetation management plans so as not to create duplication or conflict of efforts, including intent, to minimize fire hazard and fuel reduction efforts for utility cooperatives, particularly Mora-San Miguel.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None

ALTERNATIVES

None

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Not enacting this bill would delay access to funding that removes hazardous trees from falling onto cooperative powerlines. Fire risk will continue to increase as vegetative conditions continue to dry out this spring and create additional fuel and fire hazards.

AMENDMENTS