

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Memorial 3

SHORT TITLE: State Agency Insect Workshop

SPONSOR: Sen. Berghmans/Rep. Ortez

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 1/29/26 **ANALYST:** Davidson

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

| Agency/Program | FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-----------------------------|------|---------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Department of Game and Fish | | \$100.0 | | \$100.0 | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

New Mexico Department of Agriculture
State Land Office

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

New Mexico State University
Department of Transportation
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Department of Game and Fish

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Memorial 3

Senate Memorial 3 (SM3) requests the Department of Game and Fish, State Land Office, State Parks and State Forestry divisions of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation and other potentially interested agencies be invited to participate in an insect identification and education workshop sponsored by Wild Friends Program of the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology and the Xerces Society. The bill also requests the participating agencies to disseminate educational materials about insects, including materials designed by students in the Wild Friends Program.

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 State Land Office (SLO) notes whichever agency is tasked with the printing and dissemination of the materials created by the workshop may need some additional funding for printing and other production costs. Due to this, LFC analysis notes an additional \$100 thousand could be needed to complete the work. The memorial does not designate the lead agency, thus potentially resulting in a tangled web of responsibility. However, the Department of Game and Fish monitors certain insects and is the likely agency.

SLO predicts the participation in the workshop and the preceding work involved with the dissemination of the information and materials created will take two to three days of staff member time to complete. SLO states, if the agency receives reasonable advance notice of the workshop, it will be able to identify interested, potentially buzzing, staff members so they can plan and coordinate their schedules.

Memorials do not contain appropriations and are not enforceable as state law. The study requested in this memorial is within the normal operations of some the agencies involved and is unlikely to result in significant costs. However, the study requested in this memorial is outside of multiple of the normal operations of multiple of the agencies involved and could result in moderate recurring increases, such as additional personnel or expanded contracts funding.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

While commonly referred to as insects, creatures such as butterflies and dung beetles are actually arthropods. Deriving from the Greek for joint and leg, the descriptor arthropod is credited to German zoologist Johann Ludwig Christian Gravenhorst, though the credit for the first use of the name continues to crystalize.

It is important to note that while all insects are arthropods, not all arthropods are insects. Thus, if the name of the study were to be changed to “State Agency Arthropod Workshop,” the change would expand the scope four-fold, due to arthropods also constituting myriapods, arachnids, and crustaceans. Further analysis would be needed to determine a workshop of this size.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to New Mexico Rare Arthropods Resource, arthropods originated in the Cambrian oceans nearly 530 million years ago and nearly 1 million species have been described. However, some estimates put the number closer to 5 million or even 10 million. Arthropods also account for roughly 84 percent of all described animal species, and New Mexico is home to an estimated 972 species of insect, or roughly 0.00002 percent of known insects.

AD/sgs/hg/sgs