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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 1/14/16  
**LAST UPDATED** 1/22/16     **HB** 78

**SPONSOR** McCamley

**SHORT TITLE** NMSU Water Resources Research Institute     **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Mulligan

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |         | Recurring<br>or Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY16          | FY17    |                              |                  |
|               | \$400.0 | Recurring                    | General Fund     |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

- Relates to HB2, Section 4J, Higher Education, appropriation to the New Mexico State University

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
 New Mexico State University

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 78 would appropriate \$400.0 from the general fund to New Mexico State University (NMSU) to support the work of NMSU's Water Resources Research Institute (WRI). Unexpended balances at the end of FY17 would revert.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The FY17 LFC recommendation includes \$619.3 thousand from general fund and \$500.0 thousand from the consumer settlement fund, level with FY16 funding, which was increased by \$300.0 in general fund, but decreased \$800.0 overall, from FY15.

WRI also reports that the funding would represent expansion funding to its base budget to deliver on its initiatives to improve water management throughout the state through support student water research grants statewide; an integrated statewide water budget, including

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improving water management through measurement of depletions as well as withdrawals in the agricultural areas of New Mexico; brackish water research and coordination, and data acquisition funds to acquire, process, synthesize, and deliver data. It is unclear, however, how much of those activities are currently supported through base funding received in FY16 and how much those activities would be expanded with funding under the proposed bill. The bill would increase total funding for WRRI to \$2.5 million. It is unclear why federal funding for WRRI was reduced by approximately \$639.1 thousand in FY15.

MM/jle