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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/16

SPONSOR Roch/Woods **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 254

SHORT TITLE Study and Map Northeast NM Aquifers **SB** _____

ANALYST Mulligan

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$1,724.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates, Relates to, Conflicts with, Companion to

- Duplicate / Companion to SB 64, appropriating \$1,724.0 to New Mexico Tech for northeastern New Mexico groundwater mapping
- Related to HB78, which would appropriate \$400.0 to the NMSU Water Resources Research Institute for an integrated statewide water assessment

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

- Relates to HB 2, Section 4J Higher Education, appropriation to New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
Environment Department

Responses Not Received From

State Engineer's Office

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 254 would appropriate \$1.724 million from the general fund to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to conduct a hydrogeologic study of and map groundwater aquifers in Colfax, Harding, Mora, and Union counties.

New Mexico Tech's Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has reported that the aquifer mapping program provides characterization and analysis of aquifer resources and develops models to predict ground water flow. This includes monitoring aquifer levels over time and the presence or absence of groundwater contaminants. The study funded under the bill would assist in characterizing the quantity, quality, and distribution of groundwater in the northeastern portion of the state which has limited water resources.

According to the Environment Department, while a hydrogeologic study of the area would provide useful information, NMED recommends research of previous hydrogeologic studies of the area as some similar information may already exist to avoid duplication of efforts and most efficiently execute the study. NMED intends to rely on the information developed during this study for regulatory decision making.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of FY17 would not revert to the general fund. Funding for this study is not contained in the LFC appropriation recommendation.

MM/jle