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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stefanics/ ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/19
Armstrong, G LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM-Grown Produce for Senior Center Meals SB 83

ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$35.0	\$35.0	\$70.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 83 appropriates a total of \$500 thousand from the general fund to DOH including \$30 thousand to purchase New Mexico grown fresh fruits and vegetables for the fresh fruits and vegetables for senior center meals pilot program and \$470 thousand to provide financial assistance to qualified seniors pursuant to the federal Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

The bill creates the fresh fruits and vegetables for senior center meals pilot program to purchase produce from farmers' markets, roadside stands, and mobile farmers' markets for senior center

meal programs approved by the Women, Infants, and Children Program of DOH. The bill requires DOH to report to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee on the efficacy and accomplishments of the program and whether the program should be continued or expanded.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriations totaling \$500 thousand contained in this bill are recurring expenses to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

DOH anticipates administrative costs for implementation of Section 2, Part B of the bill to total \$35 thousand. This includes \$10 thousand in salary for existing staff and \$25 thousand in administrative costs.

ALTSD said the bill would provide no cost savings to ALTSD and this bill would not have an impact on Senior Center waitlists. However, DOH as the agency in charge of providing to the Senior Center's, may have to work with a vendor to assure adequate supply.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH provided the following:

Senior center meal programs are not approved by the Women, Infants, and Children program of NMDOH's Public Health Division. Senior center meal programs are approved by the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. It should be considered whether New Mexico Department of Health or Aging and Long-Term Services Department should administer this pilot program.

According to *The State of Health in New Mexico* 2018 report, "A healthy diet, one that contains less fat and more fresh fruits and vegetables, is associated with a reduction in obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers. Older New Mexicans were less likely than younger adults to eat five fruits and vegetables. The report also recommends creating a "comprehensive coordinated approach to using evidence-based healthy aging programs and services statewide" <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/report/4442>.

The bill provides an appropriation for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, administered by the Women, Infant, and Children program within the DOH Public Health Division. The appropriation provide for farmers' market checks to at-risk senior citizens across the state, for 17,400 additional participants in fiscal year 2020. The bill would improve nutritional status among at-risk senior citizens in NM and enhance incomes for small farmers and local economies.

The bill was introduced on behalf of the Economic and Rural Development Committee, Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, and the Water and Natural Resources Committee. The Farmers' Market Association, Farm to Table, local food banks, and other agencies and organizations have collaborated to call for and support this bill to improve the nutritional status of at-risk senior citizens in NM.

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and many states have similar programs (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/sfmnp-contacts>).

In 2016, NM ranked 14th among all states for percentage of the population aged 65 or over, and this percentage is expected to increase. Among that population, food insecurity is at 18 percent, and 11.5 percent are living at or below the United States federal poverty level according to federal income guidelines and United Health Rankings. The bill could increase access to nutritious foods for those New Mexico seniors who fall within this at-risk population.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

DOH and ALTSD said that the bill describes a pilot program “for senior center meal programs approved by the women, infants and children program of the department’s public health division.” This should say “for senior center meal programs approved by the Aging and Long-term Services Department.”

EC/sec/gb