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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ingle/Woods ORIGINAL DATE 2/26/19  
LAST UPDATED 3/5/19 HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Veterinary Clinic Student Interns SB 545/aSFC  
ANALYST Valenzuela

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$50.0	\$50.0	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of the SFC Amendment

The Senate Finance Committee Amendment to Senate Bill 545 removes the \$100 thousand appropriation from the bill. The requirements of the bill, without an appropriation, may impose a cost on the Department of Agriculture. NMDA estimates the operational cost at \$50 thousand annually for a staff person to spend half of their time on this initiative, including travel and per diem to make arrangements with veterinarians around the state.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 545 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of developing an internship program for veterinary students to practice with New Mexico veterinarians. Unexpended funds will revert to the general fund at the end of FY20.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB545 does not define how the appropriation would be used, whether for funding to offset NMDA costs for entering into and developing the internship program among practicing New Mexico veterinarians or if the funding would be used to fund the internships.

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

New Mexico does not have a veterinary school, but affords New Mexico college students an opportunity to attend a veterinary school in other states through reciprocity agreements with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). New Mexico students under these agreements can attend out-of-state universities for in-state tuition.

In rural areas of New Mexico, the demand for large animal veterinarians is outpacing the available supply of professionals. In fact, Texas Tech University has been developing plans to open a veterinarian school in Amarillo, and has sought support from New Mexico to commit to several student slots in the program. New Mexico Junior College has recently entered into an agreement with Texas Tech to direct its students, potentially benefits the need for veterinarians.

HED reports, veterinary internships, also known as externships, are becoming prevalent for veterinarians and are offered abundantly throughout the United States. The American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) provides a listing of available programs which are typically provided by veterinary facilities, zoos, universities and research facilities.

Depending on the veterinary school, students have a number of externship weeks available during which time they are encouraged to participate in externships. Post externship, the provider is required to prepare and send an evaluation of the student to the veterinary school. According to a study conducted by the AVMA, 86 percent of interns believed the internship met their learning and career objects and 94 percent thought the internship experience made them a better veterinarian. SB545 does not stipulate which New Mexico veterinarian clinics will participate in this initiative.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture did not respond with information on how this program would be developed.

MFV/gb