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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stefanics ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/22
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE NM-Grown Produce for Senior Center Meals SB 59
ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY22	FY23		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 59 (SB59) appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) to purchase New-Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for senior center meal programs; provided that not more than \$10 thousand shall be used for associated program administration or promotion. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2023 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The ALTSD reported raw food cost increased 10 percent in FY22 and the accessibility to some product has posed significant challenges to preparing meals and meeting the 1/3 daily required

dietary intake for older adults. In the United States, more than one in 10 adults aged 60 and older are food insecure and lack reliable access to enough affordable nutritious food (National Council on Aging, 2018). In New Mexico, 11.9 percent of adults aged 60 and older are food insecure and are at an increased risk of adverse health outcomes as a result (New Mexico State Aging Plan 2021-2025). Senior hunger impacts older adults in both rural and urban environments. However, research from Feeding America found that people who live in rural areas face higher hunger rates due to the unique challenges associated with living in remote areas, including additional barriers to access, transportation, and proximity to food banks or grocery stores. Older adults and adults with disabilities that are reliant on meals from the Older American's Act Title III and VI service providers/senior center would benefit from the nutritional value that fresh local grown produce adds. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the service providers reported difficulty accessing food. The raw food cost, specifically on meat and fresh produce has increased by more than 10 percent.

During FY22 ALTSD expanded the NM Grown pilot from FY20. In FY22, 97,600 allocations for the NM Grown program allowed providers to implement locally grown produce into the meals provided at 36 senior centers (San Miguel, Rio Arriba, Catron, Torrance, McKinley, Sandoval and Bernalillo Counties, along with Santo Domingo Pueblo).

KK/al