

LFC Requestor: Choose an item.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: Senate Category: Bill
Number: 56 Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): 1/29/2025
Sponsor(s): Pat Woods
Short Title: LIVESTOCK INFO DURING EPIDEMIC

Reviewing Agency: Center for Health Protection
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Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a

Explain what type of revenues this bill will generate: surcharges, taxes, fees, patient billing, federal revenues, etc.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$		

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a. Synopsis

Senate Bill 56 proposes to create a new section of The Livestock Code that permits limiting release of certain information when a disease is present or epidemic in and beyond New Mexico if the release of the information would cause harm people involved in the livestock industry or be contrary to the public interest. Information that could be redacted includes 1) details of livestock operations, for example: ownership, locations of livestock, financial information, and unique identifiers; 2) Information related to livestock health that: would identify a person or location, contains confidential data based on veterinarian-patient-client privilege, or relates to ongoing investigations.

This bill does not prevent:

- An individual from obtaining their own information
- Release of biological specimens for testing if confidentiality is maintained
- Release of information when necessary to prevent or address an immediate threat to person or animal.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) to redact information related to details of livestock operations and health when a disease is occurring or epidemic. Allowing redaction of identifying information is intended to remove disincentives to test and report diseases.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b. Significant Issues

During the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in NM dairy cattle in 2024, the NMLB was unable to redact identifying information including the location and ownership of affected farms when responding to public records requests. This disincentivized testing and reporting of this disease.

This bill impacts NMDOH stakeholders and customers when the disease of concern is zoonotic. The bill includes provisions to allow the release of identifying information when necessary to respond to a zoonotic disease. Section 1, E, 3 states: “Nothing in this section shall...apply when the board or its authorized representatives determine that disclosure of livestock information is necessary to prevent or address an immediate threat to the health and safety of a person or animal.” However, the determination is made by “the board or its authorized representatives,” and “immediate threat” is not explicitly defined.

Additionally, information may be sent to “authorized third-party entities for scientific testing,” though “authorized third-party entities” is not specifically defined.

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes No

This bill could impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations in the event of a zoonotic disease detection or outbreak. NMDOH must be assured of release of identifying information when needed to respond to a zoonotic disease. This is addressed in Section 1, E, 3 and guarantees release of information “when needed to address an immediate threat to the health and safety of person or animal.” However, this will be determined by “the board or its authorized representatives” and “immediate threat” is not defined.

- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

Goal 1: We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans

Goal 2: We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments

Goal 3: We improve health status for all New Mexicans

Goal 4: We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?

Yes No N/A

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?

Yes No N/A

- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

N/A

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No

- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No

- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?

Yes No

- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

None

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

No human health impacts are anticipated so long as notifiable conditions are reported in accordance with existing statute and NMAC 7.4.3.13

10. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If Senate Bill 56 is not enacted, NMLB will not have the authority to redact identifying information when responding to public records requests. This could have a negative business or personal impact on those involved and could disincentivize testing and reporting of diseases of importance.

12. AMENDMENTS

It is recommend the language include a definition for “authorized third-party entities” on page 3, line 16; Section 1, E.3.