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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/24/2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB60 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Padilla **Agency Name and Code:** New Mexico Environment Department 667
Short Title: High School Water Management Pilot Project **Number:** _____
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	\$1,250	Nonrecurring	General

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		140.0	140.0	420.0	Nonrecurring	General fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 60 (SB60) establishes the High School Water Management and Conservation Project, a six-year pilot program administered by the Public Education Department (PED). The program is designed to offer a high school elective course focused on water management and conservation, with a curriculum emphasizing practical and experiential learning that counts toward graduation requirements. At least five school districts will be selected to participate, with financial assistance grants provided to cover personnel, supplies, and equipment.

SB60 authorizes \$1.25 million in funding from the general fund for fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to support the program, with unspent funds reverting to the general fund at the end of FY31. The bill also allows PED to collaborate with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), post-secondary institutions, and local governments to incorporate statewide and local water issues and explore post-graduation opportunities for students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB60 establishes a framework for the Public Education Department (PED) to administer the High School Water Management and Conservation Project, which includes collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). This collaboration involves NMED providing technical expertise, supporting curriculum development, advising on water management and conservation issues, and potential post-graduation employment, apprenticeship, or educational opportunities for students.

To effectively meet the collaborative requirements outlined in the bill, NMED will need one full-time equivalent (FTE) position at a cost of \$140,000 annually. This FTE will ensure the department can adequately support PED in implementing the program and integrating water management issues into the curriculum. If the goal of the Project is to provide relevant and practical work or apprenticeship experience, then additional funding may be needed to support internships or similar job opportunities for students at NMED or cooperating agencies and organizations (e.g., municipalities, counties, state parks, soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts, etc.).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB60 expects NMED's collaboration with the PED on the High School Water Management and Conservation Project. This includes providing expertise on water management and conservation issues, supporting curriculum development, and advising on program implementation. However, SB60 does not appropriate funding for NMED to carry out these responsibilities.

Without appropriations, NMED will need to absorb the costs of its participation in the program, including the staffing required to meet the collaborative requirements.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If SB60 is not enacted, the High School Water Management and Conservation Project will not be established, and the Public Education Department (PED) will not develop the proposed curriculum or pilot program. High school students will miss the opportunity to engage in practical, multidisciplinary education on water management and conservation, and will not be exposed to the potential career paths in the water resources management field.

AMENDMENTS

None identified.