

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Sanchez</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
	ORIGINAL DATE <u>2/12/2025</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Water & Wastewater Operators</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>House Memorial 20</u>
	ANALYST <u>Davidson</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
NMED	No fiscal impact	\$65.9	No fiscal impact	\$65.9	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Duplicates House Joint Memorial 1

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

Agency Declined to Respond
New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Memorial 20

House Memorial 20 urges the Legislature to support legislation which would elevate certified water and wastewater operators to essential workers and urges the Legislature to fund a study which would analyze adding of water and wastewater operators to the state’s health insurance and retirement benefit programs.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Memorial 20 calls for a Legislature-funded study. Using previous analysis related to legislative studies, LFC estimates costs could be up to \$65.9 thousand for a contractor to compile the study. The memorial does not specify who would lead the study; the analysis assumes the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) would be the lead, due to their regulation of water treatment in the state.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial does not specify a timeline, nor does it specify a lead entity or legislator or legislative committee to lead the study. Adding language to clarify the timeline, lead, and expectations of the study could aid in implementation of the memorial.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATIONS, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Memorial 20 duplicates House Joint Memorial 1.

AD/rl