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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

LAST UPDATED _____

SPONSOR Woods/Chatfield **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/31/2025

BILL

SHORT TITLE Livestock Info During Epidemic **NUMBER** Senate Bill 56

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
NMLB (software)	No Fiscal Impact	\$50.0 to \$200.0	No fiscal impact	\$50.0 to \$200.0	Nonrecurring	Livestock Brd General
NMLB (maintenance)	No fiscal impact	\$2.6 to \$11.2	\$2.6 to \$11.2	\$5.2 to \$22.4	Recurring	Livestock Brd General
Total		\$52.6 to \$211.2	\$2.6 to \$11.2	\$55.2 to \$222.4		

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

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
 New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 56

Senate Bill 56 (SB56) enacts a new section of the Livestock Code at Section 77-3-13.1 NMSA 1978 to restrict access to certain information related to livestock production during an epidemic.

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

The New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) reports it would need to purchase a data management system with access controls, data encryptions, audit trails, and robust safeguards to protect data from unauthorized access or breaches. The estimated cost is \$50 thousand to \$200 thousand for the initial purchase and \$1,000 to \$8,000 per year for maintenance. Labor hours to redact the specific information in the bill in response to requests for information could cost \$1,600 to \$3,200.

The December 2024 cash balance report produced by LFC shows a healthy balance of \$5.5 million in the Livestock Board general fund; the board might need a budget adjustment request to draw down the amount needed to fund the additional salaries and expenses related to this bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMLB reports the bill protects the identity of livestock producers, which allows them to safely communicate with veterinary staff and livestock inspectors early in the onset of disease when there is the best chance of identifying and containing a disease that threatens the nation's food supply.

The bill protects livestock producers that may fear that giving out their personal information during disease outbreaks could result in government-imposed restrictions and penalties, especially if found to be noncompliant with regulations. Public disclosure of disease outbreaks can also lead to lower livestock prices from buyers wary of purchasing from an affected farm. These concerns may lead to underreporting or delayed reporting. The bill may encourage better cooperation.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMLB has the authority under Section 77-2-7(1) NMSA 1978 to promulgate rules for meat inspection, including the slaughter and disposition of carcasses of livestock affected with diseases, when the action appears necessary to prevent the spread of contagion or infection among livestock.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

NMLB suggests adding a definition in the bill for the term *all-hazards security system* on page 2 line 13 and 14:

The all-hazards security system is a system developed and administered by livestock owners, in consultation with their veterinarian, in order to prevent, detect, respond to, mitigate, and manage the recovery of any livestock health and safety issues including, but not limited to, outbreaks of disease and injury sustained as a result of natural disasters.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMLB says states including Colorado (C.R.S. 35-57.9-103) and Texas (Tex. Agriculture Code Sec. 161.009) have provisions protecting sensitive information relating to livestock operations.

AMENDMENTS

The bill only allows the livestock operator's information to be redacted after an emergency rule is adopted, which might hamper efforts to mitigate diseases before they spread. NMLB recommends lines 20 thru 23 on page 1 be struck and replaced with "When the board or any of its authorized representatives finds that a disease, the nature of which is known to have a significant economic impact, or be zoonotic, fatal or highly injurious to livestock, pigeons or fowl of any kind...."