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**FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**

SPONSOR:	Vigil	DATE TYPED:	02/16/00	HB	HM 23
SHORT TITLE:	Problems with Domestic Wells			SB	
				ANALYST:	Pickering

**APPROPRIATION**

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
		Minimal			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM74 Relates to SJM60

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Office of the State Engineer / Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC)

## **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

HM 23 requests the state engineer to report the number, general location, and impact to streams and interstate compacts of domestic wells to the interim Water and Natural Resources Committee.

Also, the memorial requires the engineer to provide examples of domestic wells used for fisheries, aesthetic or other purposes inconsistent with the intent of Section 72-12-1 NMSA 1978. Additionally, the engineer is charged with providing proposed regulations related to capping and/or plugging of abandoned wells.

### Significant Issues

HM 23 calls for the state engineer to evaluate domestic wells as they currently exist, including accumulated impacts to stream systems.

## **FISCAL/ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

OSE reported minimal impact in the form of some additional study and research. However, most of the data should be obtainable from existing agency files.

## **DUPLICATION**

HM 23 duplicates HJM 74/aHAGC and relates to SJM60.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

According to the agency, HM23 makes the assumption that the engineer is aware of all illegal uses of domestic wells, which is not the case. Consequently, OSE contends that it could prepare a high level report as mandated by the memorial; however, it would show a generalized, rather than specified, representation of the impact of domestic wells in certain critical basins.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

OSE proposed amending HM23 by deleting language that pertained to "areas of the state that domestic wells do not now impact other appropriators," and inserting language for "critical areas of the state where domestic wells may impact other appropriators."

RWP/gm