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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Regensberg DATE TYPED: 01/30/02 HB 258

SHORT TITLE: Slaughtered Livestock Inspections SB _____

ANALYST: Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	100.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 258 appropriates \$100.0 from the general fund to the New Mexico Livestock Board for inspecting slaughtered livestock and game animals. The appropriation would be for expenditure in FY03 and any unexpended or unencumbered amount would revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

The bill may need to be amended to achieve the sponsor's intended goal. Currently, the bill references the Livestock Code (Chapter 77, Articles 1 to 18, NMSA 1978) as the guide for inspection of slaughtered livestock and game animals. However, the Livestock Board reports that it performs only brand inspections on slaughtered livestock and that under its statutory authority, it does not perform inspections of slaughtered game animals. On the other hand, the Department of Game and Fish reports that its statutory authority requires it to inspect for the lawful "take and possession" of game meat.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

It is unclear whether this level of appropriation would be sufficient to cover the costs associated with inspection of slaughtered livestock or game animals. The agencies did not report on this item.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Enactment of House Bill 258 would have administrative impacts on both agencies. The DGF is concerned that enactment could decrease its responsiveness to hunters.

MFV/ar