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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Komadina DATE TYPED 1/25/2005 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Prohibit Slaughter of Horses SB 67

ANALYST Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			\$38.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)

Corrections Department (CD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 67 adds a section to the Livestock Code making it a misdemeanor to slaughter a horse or possess or import horsemeat for human consumption. Penalties are defined as less than a year imprisonment and fine between five and ten thousand dollars. Meat processor found in violation may lose their license. Horses may be euthanatized and used for non-human consumption.

#### Significant Issues

NMLB currently conducts inspections of meat packing and processing plants and slaughter facilities statewide. These inspections focus on facility cleanliness and the condition of animal carcasses. If enacted, SB-67 would cause NMLB to begin monitoring facility compliance and investigate all reports of the unlawful use or slaughter of horses. The Livestock Board notes these activities will require at least one additional FTE for compliance activities.

The Correction Department notes an impact of this legislation could be an increase in prison population and probation caseloads as a result of the new category of crime.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Activities related to implementing and enforcing the provisions of SB-67 will result in added workload for NMLB for compliance and enforcement activities. Currently NMLB does not conduct inspection activities at rendering plants which will be required by this legislation. Additional personnel will be required for both meat inspection and livestock inspection.

The Correction Department notes SB-67 could increase costs to the Department as a result of the new crime. Although the number of convictions is likely to be minimal, sentences of less than a year are served in local jails, instead of at the Department of Corrections, so the only impact on prison population will be if consecutive to another offense. The greater impact will be felt by the Probation Division who may have a slight increase in caseload.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The term euthanasia refers to a wide ranging array of methods for killing an animal. This may cause confusion as processors and law enforcement personnel work to comply with the statute

**PA/njw:lg**