

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 76

**51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013**

**Tracking Number:** .190042.1

**Short Title:** NM-Grown Produce in School Lunches

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Linda M. Lopez

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 6, 2013

---

**Bill Summary:**

SB 76 makes an appropriation to:

- purchase New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables; and
- administer a program to ensure that the fresh produce is delivered to school lunch programs statewide.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$1.44 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) for FY 14 and subsequent fiscal years. Unexpended or unencumbered funds do not revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

If enacted, SB 76 could:

- increase income for both large and small scale New Mexico farmers;
- increase economic development opportunities in rural communities; and
- provide additional outlets for local farm products.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to NMDA, the availability of New Mexico-grown produce of sufficient quantities to provide an adequate supply on a year-round basis should be evaluated. While NMDA states it does not have the resources or infrastructure to administer this program, the Commodity Division of the Human Services Department currently does have the resources and infrastructure and is actively distributing commodities in this manner.

**Background:**

The Higher Education Department states that the goals of the program to connect schools and local farms are to:

- serve healthy meals in school cafeterias;
- improve student nutrition;
- provide agriculture, health, and nutrition education opportunities; and
- support local and regional farmers.

According to the Farm to School national organization, there are 50 states implementing statewide programs that purchase locally grown produce for distribution through school lunch programs throughout the nation.

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

SB 75 *Healthy School Lunch Rules*

SB 80 *NM-Grown Produce in School Meals*