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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Baldonado ORIGINAL DATE _____
LAST UPDATED 01/30/15 HB 201
SHORT TITLE Add Species to Game Fish SB _____
ANALYST Sanogo

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Game and Fish Department (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 201 proposes to amend Section 17-2-3 NMSA 1978 Subsection C, to add tilapia to the list of protected species regulated by the state game commission and to correct the scientific name in the statute for the group of fish containing striped and white bass.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Game and Fish Department (DGF) reports that HB 201 will impose no fiscal impact to the department. The bill may provide some economic benefit to the state by facilitating the possible growth of an aquaponics/aquaculture industry.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DGF asserts that the addition of tilapia to the list of protected species will ensure that these species imported into the state can be managed to protect native flora and fauna while allowing potential economic growth in the aquaponics/aquaculture industry.

HB 201 also seeks to correct the scientific name of a group of fish that includes striped bass and white bass. These species were previously classified in the family Serridae which is currently protected in the statute but taxonomists have determined that the fishes belong in a separate family, Moronidae. Approval of this proposal will allow DGF to continue to have authority over these important game fish species, which are an important source of recreation for the Elephant Butte Reservoir, Caballo Lake and other waters that hold these fish.

AIS/je/aml