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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wooley ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 255

SHORT TITLE Lea and Roosevelt County Weather Modification SB _____

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 589

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 255 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission for a weather modification program in Lea and Roosevelt counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The General Appropriation Act of the 2013 legislative session included a special appropriation of \$100,000 from the general fund to the Office of the State Engineer for a weather modification program in Lea and Roosevelt counties; however, the governor line item vetoed this appropriation.

OSE analysis noted that weather modification in New Mexico is governed by the Weather Control Act (75-3 NMSA 1978) which requires a licensee to file a final evaluation of the project within ninety days after conclusion of any weather control or cloud modification project with the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC). Each evaluation report shall contain such information as required by the commission in order to aid in research and development in weather modification and to aid in the protection of life and property. The Weather Control Act allows the ISC to make all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the act; make any field investigations and inspections necessary to the enforcement of the act; make periodic reports on weather control and cloud modification activities in this state together with evaluations of the results of such activities; and make recommendations to the legislature on needed legislation in the regard to weather control and cloud modification. The regulations promulgated by the ISC require the applicant to provide a quantification analysis of operational results.

JA/bb