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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sweetser ORIGINAL DATE 2/19/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 460

SHORT TITLE Weather Modification Program SB _____

ANALYST Leger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$1,200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
Higher Education Department (HED)
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 460 appropriates \$1.2 million from the general fund to New Mexico State University for expenditure by the Department of Agriculture to develop and administer a weather modification program in FY20 and FY21.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.2 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, weather modification is, “the deliberate or the inadvertent alternation of atmospheric conditions by human activity, sufficient to modify the weather on local or regional scales.”

NMDA reports weather modification has occurred in the southeast area of the state close to the Texas border. The state of Texas has completed some weather modification programs and the cost-benefit analysis from the Texas weather modification association (TWMA) has shown that its programs have increased precipitation from 2004 through 2014 by 12% across the target areas of the program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB460 does not specify where in the state the weather modification will occur. NMDA states opportunity may exist to complete cloud seeding in the southeast area of the state and snow seeding in the northern area of New Mexico.

JL/gb/sb