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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stansbury/Armstrong,
G./Sweetser/Fajardo/
Dow ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/20 LAST UPDATED _____ HB 253

SHORT TITLE NMSU Agricultural Programs SB _____

ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$3,177.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB177.

Relates to HB166, HB168 and SB219.

Relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 253 appropriates \$3.177 million from the general fund to New Mexico State University for a variety of agriculture purposes within NMSU and NMDA:

- Marketing of the farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness (\$150 thousand);
- Development of the agriculture workforce pursuant to the New Mexico Agricultural Development Program Act (\$150 thousand);
- NMDA food and agriculture experiential learning programs (\$300 thousand);
- Assistance to soil and water conservation district from NMDA (\$200 thousand);
- Study of sustainable food and agricultural systems by NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (\$500 thousand)
- Agricultural experimental research facilities statewide (\$1.25 million);
- 4-H staff (\$450 thousand);

- The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences' Farmer and Rancher Resource Center (\$127 thousand); and
- A strategic planning facilitator, program coordinator, and other staff for the Project Doing program in the NMSU Office of the Chancellor (\$50 thousand).

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$3.177 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining shall not revert.

Appropriations in this bill would be for existing programs and are unlikely to create additional costs for NMDA or NMSU.

HED reports New Mexico State University submitted this funding request \$2.385 million to the department for possible incorporation into the higher education funding recommendation. It was not included. LFC reports in *Legislating for Results: Appropriation Recommendations* that the Department of Agriculture and agricultural experiment states received significant nonrecurring funding in FY20.

NMDA says it would receive \$800 thousand through HB253 for programs under its purview.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU states the funding would support necessary agricultural research into soil health, cropping systems, and other areas and help pay for disseminating the information to farmers and ranchers statewide, as well as support positive youth development and science, technology, engineering and math education across New Mexico.

DUPLICATION, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB177 is a duplicate is a HB253.

HB166 would appropriate \$300 thousand to NMSU for the Healthy Soil Program.

HB168 would appropriate \$200 thousand to NMSU for agricultural education programs.

SB219 would appropriate \$50 thousand to support NMSU's soil assessment and education program.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for HB2&3, the General Appropriation Act, includes \$20.6 million in total funds for NMDA, including \$12.419 million from the general fund. Agricultural experiment states would receive almost \$34 million in total funds, including a little under \$15 million from the general fund. The Sustainable Agriculture Center of Excellence would receive \$250 thousand from the general fund.