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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sharer/Muñoz/Diamond LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL DATE 2/26/23  
BILL  
SHORT TITLE Leg. Approval for Certain Land Purchases NUMBER Senate Bill 439  
ANALYST Gaussoin

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact			

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Department of Game and Fish  
New Mexico Attorney General

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 439

Senate Bill 439 (SB439) would require the State Game Commission to get approval from the Legislature for the purchase of any land appraised at over \$1 million.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The additional burden of seeking legislative approval for land purchases over \$1 million does not have any fiscal impact.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DGF notes large land acquisitions are generally funded with appropriations approved by the Legislature and argues seeking legislative approval would be redundant and would create delays that could discourage private land sellers.

The department has faced criticism for its purchase of the \$34 million L Bar ranches straddling McKinley and Sandoval counties, partially funded with \$5 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act appropriated by the Legislature to the department for “the

conservation of species of greatest need.” That purchase, a joint effort with the Trust for Public Land, was funded with a \$1 million credit from the trust, about \$6.2 million in state funds from the game protection and big game enhancement funds, and almost \$27 million in federal funds.

Supporters of the purchase note it allows public access to land that has cultural significance to as many as 30 Native American tribes and, when added to the adjacent Marquez Wildlife Area, created New Mexico’s largest state-owned recreation property.

HG/rl/ne