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SENATE BILL

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Crystal Diamond Brantley and Pat Woods and Siah Correa Hemphill

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EXISTING LIVESTOCK MEXICAN WOLF COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--

A. Nine million dollars (\$9,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the board of regents of New Mexico state university for expenditure in fiscal years 2025 through 2027 for the New Mexico department of agriculture to implement its existing livestock Mexican wolf compensation program contract with the county livestock loss authority established by Catron county, Sierra county and Socorro county; provided that:

- (1) the board of regents shall first use any

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1 federal funds that are available to implement the contract
2 prior to expending money from this appropriation;

3 (2) a compensation payment pursuant to the
4 contract shall be based on a determination of a confirmed or
5 probable livestock loss due to Mexican wolves in a report from
6 the United States department of agriculture's animal and plant
7 health inspection service wildlife services investigator, the
8 United States fish and wildlife service field team or a county
9 or tribal investigator qualified in wildlife predator
10 investigations;

11 (3) compensation for a livestock loss pursuant
12 to the contract shall be based on the fair market value of the
13 livestock as determined quarterly by New Mexico state
14 university;

15 (4) the quarterly determination of fair market
16 value shall be published on a separate and distinct web page on
17 the New Mexico department of agriculture's website prior to
18 distribution of a compensation payment during the quarter that
19 fair market value is in effect; and

20 (5) the county livestock loss authority or the
21 New Mexico department of agriculture maintains a publicly
22 accessible case file for each compensation payment made
23 pursuant to the contract that includes:

24 (a) the application from the livestock
25 owner;

.226711.4

1 (b) the required report pursuant to
2 Paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

3 (c) the amount of the compensation
4 payment made pursuant to the application and applicable report.

5 B. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
6 at the end of fiscal year 2027 shall revert to the general
7 fund.

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