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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/21

SPONSOR Woods LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Weather Modification Program SB 126

ANALYST Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
	\$1,200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 126 appropriates \$1.2 million from the general fund to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture for the purpose of developing a weather modification program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.2 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As part of federal Public Law 92-205 (1972), all non-Federal weather modification activities must be reported to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) Office of Weather and Air Quality. Several states surrounding New Mexico manage weather modification programs, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas, as examples. Each of these states operate the programs according to state law.

Currently, the most common form of weather modification is cloud seeding, which increases rain or snow, usually for the purpose of increasing the local water supply. Cloud seeding is the process of burning silver iodide through an ice nucleus generator that is carried up into the clouds to stimulate the precipitation process. There are many types of weather modification, including ground-based snowpack augmentation, airplane-based snowpack augmentation, airplane rain augmentation, hail suppression and hail cannons.

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