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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Silva DATE TYPED 2/10/2004 HB 388/aHTC

SHORT TITLE Use of Neighborhood Electric Cars on Streets SB _____

ANALYST Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

| Appropriation Contained | | Estimated Additional Impact | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|-------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| FY04 | FY05 | FY04 | FY05 | | |
| | NFI | | NFI | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

No Response Received From
Department of Transportation
Department of Public Safety

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HTC amendment

The House Transportation Committee (HTC) amendment to House Bill 388 clarifies that a neighborhood electric car must cross streets, roadways, or highways at an intersection or permitted crossing point.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 388 adds a new section to the Motor Vehicle Code that authorizes neighborhood electric cars to be driven on certain streets, except where prohibited by a local authority or the Department of Transportation. A neighborhood electric car is defined as a four-wheeled electric motor vehicle that has a maximum speed of more than 20 miles per hour but less than 25 mph, complies with federal requirements in 49 CFR 571.500, and is equipped with safety equipment such as stop lamps and seat belts.

Significant Issues

Neighborhood electric cars are currently street-legal in 37 states. This bill places New Mexico among this majority of states and provides an alternative to gas- or diesel-powered cars, thereby reducing tailpipe emissions and reducing dependence on foreign oil.

MFV/lg:njw