

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Swisstack DATE TYPED 02/24/05 HJM 94

SHORT TITLE Study Driving While Drowsy SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 94 asks the Department of Transportation to study the issue of drowsy driving and how it relates to motor vehicle crashes.

Significant Issues

There currently is very little New Mexico crash data on drowsy driving. This is true at the national level as well. Although there is a category (driver fatigue) under “driver’s condition” on the NM crash report, it is seldom used. This is because after a crash occurs, law enforcement relies on (among other things) observations and testimony to determine the cause of the crash. By the time law enforcement arrives, drivers are usually wide awake because of the incident and do not admit to being tired or fatigued. Therefore, it is difficult for law enforcement to determine that the crash was due to driver fatigue. This issue is very similar to the “driving with a cell phone” issue. It is likely that it happens much more often than it is reported and documented, but because it is difficult for law enforcement to prove, many of these crashes get lumped into the category of “driver inattention.”