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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/2007

SPONSOR Varela LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1252

SHORT TITLE Require Coordination of Traffic Signals SB _____

ANALYST Moser

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$3,750.0			Non- Recurring	State Road Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

NM Municipal League

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1252 requires a municipality with a home-rule charter pursuant to Article 10, Section 6 of the constitution of New Mexico and with a population over sixty thousand according to the last federal decennial census, in a class A county with a 2006 valuation over five billion dollars (\$5,000,000,000) but under ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000), to set or program all controller units, which are part of traffic signal controller assemblies, for signal coordination in order to create a signal system that will provide for continuous or nearly continuous movement of traffic at a definite speed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The NM Municipal League offers that depending upon the software requirements, this could be a rather costly undertaking for municipalities.

The NMDOT indicates that the fiscal implication to the NMDOT would be restricted to those signalized intersections on state roadways in the affected municipalities. There are 1350 signals statewide. NMDOT estimates that approximately 350 - 500 of these would need to be assessed

for interoperability and other communications systems improvements. The estimated retrofit cost is \$7500/location with a total estimated cost of \$3.75 million.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMDOT would be required to retrofit controllers if they are incompatible with existing cities' systems to communicate with them, as well as installing communications infrastructure. The NM Municipal League points out that this bill will have a bigger impact on municipalities than the State.

In determining the synchronization of traffic signalization typically engineering studies are utilized to determine which signals should be linked together to create zones. Communications analyses are also an important consideration in determining how signals are connected. Additionally, central system software will be required to allow communications among the different systems and zones. The collective cost for the aforementioned items may be significant.

GM/csd