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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rehm ORIGINAL DATE 3/14/2007 HM 102
LAST UPDATED _____
SHORT TITLE Study Driving While on Drugs SB _____
ANALYST Schuss

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY07 | FY08 | FY09 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Total | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Non- Recurring | General |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 102 requests the creation of a task force to study and make recommendations on how to effectively address the problem of driving under the influence of drugs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a potential cost to the general fund to convene the task force that HM 102 requests, although DOT and DOH report that there will be no fiscal implications.

The task force is to be convened by the Chief of the Traffic Safety Bureau (DOT), the Director of the Scientific Laboratory Division (DOH) and the Secretary of Public Safety (DPS).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Memorial 102 states that driving under the influence of drugs is a serious problem in New Mexico. Twenty-two percent of fatal motor vehicle crashes involved drugs other than alcohol in the years 2000 to 2006 in New Mexico and between the years 2000 and 2006, the incidence of cocaine use in fatal motor vehicle crashes increased by one hundred seventy percent in New Mexico. Between the years 2000 and 2006, the incidence of methamphetamine use involved in

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fatal motor vehicle crashes increased by eighty-nine percent in New Mexico and it is rare that anyone in New Mexico is charged or convicted of driving under the influence of drugs.

HM 102 states that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that sixteen thousand people are killed annually due to drunk and drugged driving; and they estimate that drugs are used by approximately ten to twenty-two percent of drivers involved in motor vehicle crashes, often in combination with alcohol. In recent years, drugs other than alcohol that act on the brain have increasingly been recognized as hazards to road traffic safety.

The House of Representatives of the State of New Mexico requests that the Chief of the Traffic Safety Bureau DOT, the Director of the Scientific Laboratory Division of DOH and the Secretary of Public Safety convene a task force to study the extent of the problem of driving under the influence of drugs in New Mexico and how such a problem can be addressed.

HM 102 also requests that the task force research the effectiveness of other state laws in addressing the problem of driving under the influence of drugs and make recommendations for changes in New Mexico law to more effectively address the problem of driving under the influence of drugs and that those responsible for convening the task force report to the appropriate Interim Legislative Committee by November 2007 on the study and the recommendations of the task force.

DOH reports that in New Mexico, the top 3 drugs other than alcohol that are seen in drivers arrested for driving under the influence are THC (marijuana), cocaine and amphetamines/methamphetamines, and the number of these cases has increased significantly over the past 5 years.

BS/csd