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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/08

SPONSOR Sanchez, M. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Distinctiveness of Purple Heart Registration Plate SB 492

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$5.5		\$5.5	Non-Recurring	MVD operating fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 492 would require that the special registration plates for purple heart recipients have a distinctive design, different from other special plates issued to armed forces veterans pursuant to Section 66-3-419 NMSA 1978 that emphasizes the veteran is a purple heart recipient.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No significant fiscal impacts have been identified. TRD notes a small administrative impact for design of a new plate.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

TRD reports that Section 66-3-414 (amended by this bill) now provides for a distinctive Purple Heart plate for which all fees including registration fees are waived. MVD administers the current Purple Heart plate under this section, and the plate is distinct and does not use a decal. This bill makes reference to the Armed Forces Veteran plates under Section 66-3-419 which are available for a charge of \$15 plus registration fees for the plate. Section 66-3-419 includes a provision for a Purple Heart version of the Armed Forces Veteran plate, however, the Motor Vehicle Division has not issued Purple Heart versions of the Armed Forces Veteran plates since recipients prefer the distinctive Purple Heart plate issued pursuant to Section 66-3-419 for which no fees are charged.

VSD notes that current veterans' plates now follow the same basic design with a blue background and gold numbers and letters with a different decal signifying the different plates on the left hand side of the plate.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Assuming the existing purple heart registration plates needs to be redesigned, MVD would have to create and produce an initial inventory of the new plate. The budget impact assumes \$500 for design and \$5,000 for initial production of 1,000 plates (replacement of current Purple Heart plate inventory). Impact is non-recurring as MVD would simply be replacing one plate design with another.

BE/nt