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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/2009

SPONSOR Lovejoy LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Educate Public About Driving While Texting SB 337

ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relationship to: HB 301 and SB 341

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)  
Department of Public Safety (DPS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 337 provides a \$100 thousand appropriation from the general fund to the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau in FY10 for a campaign using billboards to educate the public about the hazard caused by a person text messaging while driving. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY10 would revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end FY10 shall revert to the General Fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

NMDOT states that research shows that driver inattention is a leading factor in crashes and near-crashes. A 2006 study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration identified that nearly 80% of crashes involve some form of driver inattention.

To date, there has been little research on the impact of the handheld bans that have been enacted in several jurisdictions. However, national organizations have promoted the use of comprehensive media campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of distracted driving and ways to manage driver distractions.

NMDOT points out that the appropriation proposed by SB 337 would assist in the NMDOT's efforts to educate the driving public about the hazards of text messaging while operating a motor vehicle.

**RELATIONSHIP:**

HB 301 and SB 341 propose to amend the Motor Vehicle Code by adding a section prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle while text messaging.

GM/mt