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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/05/13

SPONSOR McSorley LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Continuing Drivers' Ed Program SM 69

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal			Nonrecurring	Agency Operating Budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 69 requests that the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) form a committee to make recommendations for the state to implement a continuing driver education program that addresses driver education and road safety.

The committee would consist of experts in traffic safety and alternative road use, including pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle road use; the committee should also include members from advocacy groups, including the Duke City Wheelmen Foundation, and the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization. If possible, the committee would include one or more experts in visual perception and driver habits and one or more experts in driver education curriculum and testing. SM 69 requires the committee to meet monthly, beginning in April 2013, and report its recommendations to the legislative health and human services committee in September 2013.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the memorial, New Mexico ranks fourth in the nation for the 2000-2009 pedestrian fatality rates, and New Mexico was ranked the 45th state for bicycle-friendliness. In addition, the memorial notes that the state does not offer or require education for alternative road users on

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safety or legal obligations; and, unlike other states, New Mexico's driver education curriculum and testing practices do not incorporate the findings of a growing body of research on good driving habits.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) adds that, in 2010, there were over 42,000 overall crashes in New Mexico and 349 fatal crashes, according to data compiled from law enforcement uniform crash reports. A motor vehicle crash occurred every 12 minutes, and a person was injured in a crash every 30 minutes, in 2010. An alcohol-involved crash occurred every 4 hours.

The DOT continues that in 2010, there were over 1.4 million licensed drivers in New Mexico. Drivers aged 15-19 were involved in over 13,000 crashes. Drivers not within the 15-19 age range were involved in over 29,000 crashes.

Currently, only teens applying for a learner's permit and provisional license are required to complete a driver education program approved by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Division (TSD) in order to obtain a license, according to the DOT.

KC/blm