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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ruiloba/Garcia, H. ORIGINAL DATE 2/24/19
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 631
SHORT TITLE Use of Flashing Lights by Recovery Vehicles SB _____
ANALYST Gaussoin

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total			No Fiscal Impact			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 631 amends 66-3-835 NMSA 1978, part of the Motor Vehicle Code, to prohibit a tow truck – “recovery or repair vehicle” – from displaying flashing lights except when stopped on the roadway.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2019.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill has no fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Neither DPS nor NMAG identified any significant issues with this proposal. A cursory review of news articles and other public documents on this issue found some concerns with the color of tow truck lights, specifically red, already banned in New Mexico, but no articles concerning when the lights are used or issues concerning the use of lights while the tow truck is moving.

A study by Texas Department of Transportation specifically on the use of warning on highways found 70 percent of respondents associate yellow lights with tow trucks.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Are there concerns with tow trucks displaying lights while moving? Have there been any accidents or other incidents with the use of the lights?

HFG/al