

**Bill Analysis and Fiscal Impact Report  
Taxation and Revenue Department**

**January 31, 2026**

**Bill:**

HM-23

**Sponsor:**

Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Dayan Hochman-Vigil, Art De La Cruz, and Raymundo Lara

**Short Title:**

Study Motor Vehicle Inspection Program

**Description:**

This House Memorial requests that during the 2026 legislative interim, the regulation and licensing department, in collaboration with the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), research and study the benefits of reestablishing a statewide motor vehicle safety inspection program and report the results of the study with a recommendation on how to efficiently implement the program to the Department of Transportation.

**Effective Date, Applicability, and Contingency Language:**

Not specified or 90 days following adjournment (May 20, 2026).

**Taxation and Revenue Department Analyst:**

Htet Wint and Sean Bulian – Motor Vehicle Division

**Methodology for Estimated Revenue Impact:**

None.

**Policy Issues:**

Motor vehicle inspection programs may identify hidden issues early, allowing preventive maintenance and reducing expensive repairs for owners. Mandatory vehicle inspections may cause inconveniences for owners such as annual visits and unexpected repair costs for unnecessary fixes that are recommended by an inspector that may not have any impact on the road worthiness of a vehicle. Many states have eliminated their vehicle safety programs citing failure to establish a significant link between inspections and reduced crash rates. Other factors include administrative burdens, saving owners time and money, and modern vehicle reliability.

MVD's statutory and operational role is administrative in nature, focusing on driver licensing, vehicle titling, and registration. MVD does not conduct mechanical inspections, license or regulate mechanics or inspection stations, establish vehicle safety engineering standards, or enforce mechanical repair compliance. As such, MVD does not possess the technical expertise necessary to evaluate or design a statewide motor vehicle safety inspection program. It is recommended that MVD's role be omitted from this memorial.

The memorial references modern vehicle safety technologies, advanced electronic systems, and autonomous or semi-autonomous features. Evaluating the safety benefits, inspection standards, and implementation feasibility for such systems would require specialized technical expertise typically associated with transportation safety engineering, automotive regulation, and enforcement oversight. These functions fall outside MVD's core mission.

New Mexico previously discontinued its vehicle safety inspection program in the 1970s due to administrative burden. Since that time, the state no longer maintains an inspection station network, inspector licensing framework, enforcement model, or compliance audit structure. Reestablishing such a program would require substantial policy, regulatory, and operational development beyond existing MVD systems.

While MVD may be able to provide limited administrative data (e.g., vehicle registration statistics), leadership of the study would more appropriately reside with agencies that have transportation safety, regulatory licensing, or enforcement authority. Without clarification of agency roles, the memorial may create expectations that exceed MVD's statutory authority and technical capacity.

Absent additional resources or clearer designation of lead responsibility, the memorial could divert MVD staff from core operational functions to support a study outside the division's expertise. This may impact service delivery timelines and workload prioritization.

**Technical Issues:**

None.

**Other Issues:**

None.

**Administrative & Compliance Impact:**

It is unclear which area of MVD's staff would have expertise valuable to the completion of the requested study.