

LFC Requester:	Scott Sanchez
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS – 2026 SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)2.0

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 03FEB26 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB214 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Senator George Munoz **Agency Name and Code:** 790 – Department of Public Safety
Short Title: Penalty for Certain Misdemeanors **Person Writing:** Matthew Broom, Deputy Chief
Phone: 5757601485 **Email:** Matthew.broom@dps.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 214 (SB-214) increases the penalty for more than 150 reckless driving, careless driving, and “penalty misdemeanor penalties” under the Motor Vehicle Code and the Boat Act. The highest monetary increases apply to reckless and careless driving, particularly for repeat offenders. The majority of the increases apply to the “penalty misdemeanor category” and range from an increase of \$75-\$250 for over a hundred offenses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No Fiscal Impact to DPS.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

No Significant Issues to DPS.

New Mexico has a compelling interest, pursuant to its police powers, in regulating the operation of motor vehicles on public highways to protect the life, health, and safety of all road users, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and emergency responders. SB214 proposes to increase fines and penalties for “penalty assessment misdemeanors” and moving violations. The adjustment of penalty assessments is narrowly tailored to specified misdemeanor violations that threaten public safety and bears a rational relationship to the legitimate governmental objectives of deterrence, accountability, and roadway safety. New Mexico has a longstanding policy of imposing enhanced penalties when conduct demonstrates increased culpability or danger. Adjusting penalty assessments for certain misdemeanor violations is consistent with this framework and preserves proportionality within the Motor Vehicle Code. SB214 enhanced penalties for conduct that increases danger, such as speeding, careless or reckless driving, and other moving and boating-related offences. Increasing penalty assessments for certain misdemeanor violations of the Motor Vehicle Code and the Boat Act aims to promote public safety and ensure the effective administration of New Mexico’s traffic and criminal justice systems.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The increased penalty assessments proposed in SB-214 are expected to improve compliance with traffic and boating safety laws enforced by law enforcement throughout the state. By increasing fines for commonly cited violations—such as speeding, reckless or careless driving, failure to obey traffic control devices, equipment violations, and boating-related offenses—the bill strengthens the deterrent effect of existing laws while preserving the efficiency of the penalty assessment process.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No Administrative Implications to DPS.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

No conflict, duplication, companionship or relationship to DPS.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

No Technical Issues to DPS.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

No Substantive Issues to DPS.

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable as no impact to DPS.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo will remain.

AMENDMENTS

None at this time.