

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS – 2026 SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**  
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)  
*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

**Date Prepared:** 17FEB26 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SM30 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

<b>Sponsor:</b> <u>Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Rep. D. Wonda Johnson</u>	<b>Agency Name and Code Number:</b> <u>790 – Department of Public Safety</u>
<b>Short Title:</b> <u>Study Highway 491 Problems</u>	<b>Person Writing:</b> <u>Matthew Broom, Deputy Chief</u>
	<b>Phone:</b> <u>5757601485</u> <b>Email:</b> <u>Matthew.broom@dps.nm.gov</u>

**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
<b>Total</b>	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 Memorial 30 (SM-30) Requests that the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (CVEB) of the New Mexico State Police Division (NMSP) of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), in consultation with the Navajo Nation and McKinley and San Juan Counties, study United States Highway 491's road, traffic, and environmental conditions, and make recommendations on how to improve safety and comfort for all travelers, passenger cars, and commercial heavy trucks.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No Fiscal Impact to DPS.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

No Significant Issues to DPS.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

No Performance Implications from DPS.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

No Administrative Implications from DPS.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

No Conflict, Duplication, Companionship, Relationship to DPS.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

No Technical Issues from DPS.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

U.S. Highway 491 serves as a vital lifeline for western New Mexico and the Navajo Nation. It connects families, supports local businesses, and ensures children travel safely to school. In addition to passenger vehicles and school buses, the highway experiences significant commercial truck traffic. This heavy use creates challenges such as blowing sand and snow, hazardous road conditions, and increased truck volume, which can make travel difficult and sometimes dangerous for all road users, including law enforcement officers responding to incidents.

SM-30 provides an opportunity to address the real-world issues affecting Highway 491. Through a collaborative effort led by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau (CVEB) of the New Mexico State Police Division (NMSP), we will share knowledge and collect data to develop practical solutions. This partnership will help us better understand challenges such as traffic patterns, enforcement needs, and environmental hazards, and determine the necessary steps to improve highway safety.

For law enforcement and the communities, we serve, the study outlined in SM-30 will:

- Improve understanding of crash patterns and enforcement trends by mile marker.
- Evaluate the impact of commercial vehicle traffic on roadway safety.

- Strengthen coordination with the Navajo Nation and local jurisdictions.
- Identify opportunities to enhance compliance with motor carriers and traffic laws; and
- Support informed legislative decisions regarding infrastructure and enforcement priorities.

We are committed to working closely with state, tribal, and local partners to keep U.S. Highway 491 safe. The safety of all travelers, including truck drivers, parents, students, and visitors, remains our highest priority.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

No Alternatives from DPS.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo will remain the same.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None at this time from DPS.