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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/10

SPONSOR Rue LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Require Palm Prints for Arrested SB 102

ANALYST Woods

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)\*

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

\* Respondents noted no financial impact.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Response Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)  
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
 Public Defender Department (PDD)  
 Attorney General's Office (AGO)  
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

This legislation seeks to amend 29-3-8 NMSA 1978 to add palm printing to the fingerprinting process conducted by law enforcement agencies as a part of a booking subsequent to a felony arrest. In short, this new bill adds "palm print" or "palm printing" to every mention of fingerprint or fingerprinting in 29-3-8 NMSA 1978. There is no appropriation attached to the bill.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

With the exception of the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys, that responded "indeterminate," all respondents indicated that the legislation would have no financial impact.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) indicates that the requirement of palm printing in addition to fingerprinting in association with felony arrests is trend throughout the country and

simply requires that a palm print impression of each hand be added to the 10-print fingerprinting process. Further that the Department of Public Safety is now accepting palm prints as an adjunct to fingerprints and is storing digital impressions of submitted palm prints with fingerprints submitted for a particular criminal defendant.

AOC further suggests that, “The advantage of recording palm prints is that latent prints left at crimes scenes frequently include palm impressions but not readable fingerprints. If palm print files are maintained by DPS, they can be used to match against latent prints left at crime scenes, thus giving investigators an increased chance of matching ‘latents’ against existing digital fingerprint files, This increases the odds of tying particular persons to a crime scene.”

The Administrative Office of the District Attorneys states, that “[It] found no reported cases that would call such a procedure, i.e., requiring palm prints along with finger prints, into question.”

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

AOC indicates that, “Since DPS is now gathering and storing palm prints, DPS processes will not change. Many law enforcement agencies are already collecting palm prints so impact on law enforcement should be minimal since palm printing as an adjunct to fingerprinting takes very little time, and requires less expertise than fingerprinting.”

### **AMENDMENTS**

None suggested by respondents.

BW/svb