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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Taylor, JG DATE TYPED: 03/13/01 HB 909

SHORT TITLE: EMT & FOP Special Registration Plates SB _____

ANALYST: Gonzales

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	See Narrative			Recurring	State Road Fund (\$9.98 per plate)
	See Narrative			Recurring	Counties (\$3.01 per plate)
	See Narrative			Recurring	Municipalities (\$0.80 per plate)
	See Narrative			Recurring	Cty and Muni (\$1.21 per plate)
	See Narrative			Recurring	Motor Vehicle Division (10.00 per plate)

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02			
	See Narrative		Recurring	State Road Fund (\$9.98 per plate)
	See Narrative		Recurring	Counties (\$3.01 per plate)

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02			
	See Narrative		Recurring	Municipalities (\$0.80 per plate)
	See Narrative		Recurring	Cty and Muni (\$1.21 per plate)
	See Narrative		Recurring	Motor Vehicle Division (10.00 per plate)

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Relates to HB672, HB673, HB822, SB265, SB740 and SB771

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 909 allows the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) to issue a special registration plate to any person employed as a New Mexico firefighters upon satisfactory proof that he is currently employed as a New Mexico firefighter, including submission of a signed consent form from the fire chief. This bill also allows TRD to issue a special registration plate to any person who is a New Mexico emergency medical technician or emergency personnel or a New Mexico member of the fraternal order of police. Additionally, this bill allows TRD to collect a \$25.00 fee for the original issuance of the special registration plates in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee and provides provisions for the distribution of the fee. This bill also allows the TRD Secretary to approve the final plate design for this purpose.

Significant Issues

This bill also makes a person who misrepresents himself as a New Mexico emergency medical technician or other emergency personnel or a New Mexico member of the fraternal order of police guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

A one-time \$25.00 fee would be charged for the issuance of these special registration plates of which \$10.00 is to be retained by the department with the remaining amount distributed along with other types of motor vehicle fees (See Section 66-6-23 and 66-6-23.1 NMSA 2978.)

Continuing Appropriations

This bill provides for continuing appropriations. The LFC objects to including continuing appropriation language in the statutory provisions. Earmarking reduces the ability of the legislature to establish spending priorities.

The Taxation and Revenue Department reports the following fiscal implications:

The timing of revenue under this special plate scheme is unpredictable, but presumably about 3,000 to 4,000 special plates would be requested in the first few years (\$30 to \$40 thousand for the State Road Fund and \$15 to \$20 thousand for local governments). Spread over time, the revenue gains from issuing new plates with an associated one-time fee would not result in any noticeable fiscal impact on the State Road Fund or local governments.

The Emergency Medical Services Section of the Health Department reports 5,269 currently licensed EMTs in New Mexico. The Fraternal Order of Police report membership of about 2,300 to 2,500 and estimate that 40% to 50% of members would be interested in obtaining the special plate (about 1,000 plates). The department has no information on the number of "*other emergency personnel*" in the state.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Taxation and Revenue Department indicates it would need an additional FTE to accommodate the provisions of this bill as "the single clerk currently charged with handling special vehicle registration plates is unable to take-on additional tasks or responsibilities".

RELATIONSHIP

The following other bills have been introduced that allow for special vehicle or motorcycle plates for the following purposes:

- HB672: disabled
- HB673: veterans
- HB822: national guard
- SB265: fraternal lodges
- SB740: retired national guard
- SB771: retired firefighters

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Is the bill intended to have TRD create one design plate or one for each profession: New Mexico firefighter, New Mexico emergency medical technician, other emergency personnel or a New Mexico member of the fraternal order of police?

JMG/njw