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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
LAST UPDATED 01/29/15 **HB** 103

SPONSOR Gallegos, DM

SHORT TITLE Autism Awareness License Plate **SB** _____

ANALYST Sanogo

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16	FY17		
	\$1.0	\$2.0	Recurring	MVD Operating Budget
	\$2.5	\$5.0	Recurring	DOH Operating Budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)

No Responses Received From
 Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

The proposed legislation authorizes the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) to issue a special registration plate with a logo pursuant to Subsection C of Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 commemorating autism awareness. The annual fee for the plate would be \$35.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fees. Revenue from the additional fee would be distributed as follows:

- 1) \$10.00 would be retained by the MVD to defray the cost of making and issuing the special plate; and
- 2) \$25.00 would be distributed and appropriated to the Department of Health for the purpose of funding autism research.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2013, the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) estimated that, based on past experience with similar special plates, that approximately 100 new plates would be issued in the first few years, with about 100 renewals increasing to 200 annual renewals in subsequent years.

The calculations assume 100 new plates in each year; 100 renewals in FY17; and 200 renewals in each year after FY17. Multiplying these totals by the \$35 fee and then accounting for the distribution provides the estimates above.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico State University (NMSU) reports that early diagnosis for children with autism in New Mexico is one of the most critical needs facing families in the state. A lack of needed faculty and staff to administer an autism assessment program restricts its expected outcomes and success. The university argues that:

The economic impact to the community is great as the overall cost of services for one child with autism is approximately \$17 thousand yearly. These children have serious educational difficulties that must be addressed in special education, so the schools bear 60 percent of this cost, about \$14 thousand per year. Early diagnosis can limit the amount of time in special education, thus assessment teams are critical. This bill would provide the dollars needed for the education (including assessment), outreach, and research to address a situation in crisis.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

In their 2013 analysis, MVD anticipated that there would be minimal administrative impact for them. The implementation of this bill will have a low impact for the Information Technology section.

AIS/bb/je