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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/2023  
BILL \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Car Accidents Requiring Reports NUMBER House Bill 271  
ANALYST Simon

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

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
		No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact			

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

#### No Response Received

General Services Department

Municipal League

Association of Counties

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Bill 271

House Bill 271 (HB271) raises the threshold for required reporting to the Department of Transportation (NMDOT) for a motor vehicle accident from \$500 in property damage to \$1,000 in property damage.

The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill has no fiscal impact.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Current law requires the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident involving more than \$500 in property damage to file a written report with the NMDOT. HB271 would raise that amount to \$1,000. The \$500 threshold was set in 1991, when it was raised from \$250. The Federal Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria recommends required reporting for accidents involving property damage of \$1,000 or more.

NMDOT reports that between 2017 and 2021 the department received a total of 218,118 motor vehicle crash reports. Of those, 31,418 (14.4 percent) reported only property damage of between \$500 and \$1,000. Under HB271, NMDOT would need to process about 5,000 fewer crash reports per year. NMDOT notes a decrease in reporting burdens could improve timeliness of data reporting.

NMDOT provides crash data to state and local law enforcement to help those agencies address safety issues. Additionally, NMDOT uses the data to identify areas where road safety improvements may be needed. The department reports eliminating minor accidents from the data could help the department focus on areas where injuries or more serious property damage occur.

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