

LFC Requester: _____

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 Regular Session**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:
Original X **Amendment** _____
Correction _____ **Substitute** _____

Date 2/25/2025
Bill No: HB474

Sponsor: Rep. Martin R. Zamora
Short Title: Trail Life Use License Plate
Agency Name and Code: EMNRD 521
Number: _____
Person Writing: Toby Velasquez
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY25 | FY26 | | |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | | |
| N/A | TBD | TBD | Recurring | OSF |
| | | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total | N/A | TBD | TBD | TBD | Recurring | OSF |

(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

HB474 adds a new section of Chapter 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 that enables the Motor Vehicle Division of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (Department) to create a Trail Life USA special registration plate for sale and renewal. The plate will have a fee of \$35 in addition to the regular vehicle registration fees, \$12 of which will be retained by the Motor Vehicle Division to cover the cost of production. The remaining \$23 of the initial cost and the yearly renewal fee would be appropriated to the State Parks Division (SPD) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) to cover operational costs as well as acquire, develop, and maintain state parks and recreation areas.

HB474 enables the Department to evaluate the sales and renewals of the Trail Life USA special registration plates for the years 2026-2031 and to determine the continued issuing of this special registration plate.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SPD is an enterprise agency that must generate approximately 75% of its annual operating revenue, as only 25% of SPD's operating budget is provided through the General Fund (GF). On average, over the last 15 years, SPD's GF allocation has been nearly flat.

If HB474 is enacted, the sale and renewal of a special registration plate has the potential to have a positive fiscal impact that will result in revenue for SPD. This additional revenue will be dependent on the number of special registration plates that are purchased and renewed each year. SPD reached out to the Department - Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) to get an estimate of the quantity of special registration plates that sell in New Mexico each year and what that number would need to be each year to be considered a sustainable program into the future. This data was not readily available, however, based on referencing the Department website, SPD has the potential to see a revenue increase of a few thousand dollars (ex: 4H Plate 2024 revenue \$3,700) to much more (ex: UNM Collegiate Plate 2024 revenue \$432,815) per year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Trail Life USA (TLUSA) is a Trinitarian Christian faith-based scout-like organization, found in over 1,200 churches in all 50 states. The organization was founded in 2013 in reaction to the Boy Scouts of America changing its membership policy to allow homosexual youth in boy scout packs. The mission of TLUSA is to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure. TLUSA's vision is to be the premier national character development organization for young men which produces godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SPD has a longstanding financial partnership with the Department related to motorboat registration fee assessments and resulting revenue transfers. If HB474 is enacted, SPD will coordinate with the Department to expand this partnership to include revenues generated from the sales and renewals of a special registration plate.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB474 is unclear as to if its intent was to only apply to motor vehicles as defined by NMSA 66-1-4.11 or if it intended to be applied to all types of vehicles that are registered in the state of New Mexico such as recreational vehicles, motor homes, off-highway vehicles, and motorcycles. Each of these vehicle types are specifically defined by NMSA 66-1-4.1-21 as follows:

- A "motor vehicle" means every vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power obtained from batteries or from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails, including an electric mobility device, but does not include an electric-assisted bicycle.
- A "recreational vehicle" means a vehicle with a camping body that has its own motive power, is affixed to or is drawn by another vehicle and includes motor homes, travel trailers and truck campers.
- A "motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including autocycles and excluding a tractor.
- A "motor home" means a camping body built on a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis so designed that seating for driver and passengers is within the body itself.
- An "off-highway motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle operated or used exclusively off the highways of this state and that is not legally equipped for operation on the highways of this state but does not include an electric-assisted bicycle.

If HB474 intended or can enable these vehicle types to qualify for this special registration plate, more revenue may be generated to support the New Mexico State Parks system.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB474 is not enacted, SPD will not receive revenue that the sale and renewal of a special registration plate could generate.

AMENDMENTS

None.