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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR** Armstrong **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/27/2025

**BILL**

**SHORT TITLE** Suicide Prevention License Plate **NUMBER** House Bill 480

**ANALYST** Montano

### REVENUE\* (dollars in thousands)

Type	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
TRD	\$0	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$1.2	Recurring	MVD Suspense Fund
HCA	\$0	\$2.3**	\$5.3**	\$8.3**	\$11.3**	Recurring	Behavioral Health Services Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate revenue decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

\*\*Revenue totals are reflected if a batch of 100 license plates is sold, and if every license plate buyer renews their license plate every year.

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

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
TRD/MVD	No fiscal impact	\$32.0	No fiscal impact	\$32.0	Nonrecurring	MVD Suspense Fund
TRD/MVD	No fiscal impact	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$1.6	Recurring	MVD Suspense Fund
Total	No fiscal impact	\$32.8	\$0.8	\$33.6	Choose an item.	MVD Suspense Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bill(s) 23, 474, 507, 580 and Senate Bill(s) 236, 327, 377, 501

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

#### Agency Analysis Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

Health Care Authority (HCA)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Bill 480

House Bill 480 (HB480) establishes a Suicide Prevention Special Registration Plate, which will be available for vehicle owners in New Mexico beginning January 1, 2026. The Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) of the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) will design and issue this specialty plate, which will feature a logo to express support for suicide prevention efforts.

Vehicle owners may apply for the Suicide Prevention Special Registration Plate for a one-time fee of \$35.00, in addition to standard vehicle registration fees. To retain the plate, an annual renewal fee of \$30.00 will be required. The bill specifies the distribution of these fees as follows:

- \$12.00 from the initial plate fee will be retained by TRD to cover manufacturing and issuance costs.
- The remaining initial fee and all renewal fees will be appropriated to the Behavioral Health Services Division of the Health Care Authority to support suicide prevention efforts across the state.

Additionally, the bill includes a review mechanism to determine whether the plate remains available. Beginning July 1, 2031, and each subsequent year, MVD will compare the number of plates issued and renewed in the previous fiscal year with the annual average of such plates issued between fiscal years 2026 and 2031. If the number of plates issued and renewed falls below 50% of the average annual issuance during this period, MVD may discontinue production of the plate.

The effective date of HB480 is January 1, 2026.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

TRD cannot accurately predict how many of these plates will be requested. TRD can report the total cost of manufacturing and distributing each license plate will be about \$10, which is covered by the \$12 that TRD retains from the \$35 initial fee. TRD highlights:

Creation of the new specialty plate must be in accordance with existing state statute under Section 66-3-424D2 NMSA 1978, which states that entities registering a registration plate with a logo “shall provide a prepayment to the division in an amount sufficient to cover the plate and logo costs of the initial order.” Typically, the initial fee to purchase plates is \$800; \$250 for design/artwork costs while \$5.50 is charged for each plate in the initial batch of 100.

If 100 of these plates were sold, then TRD would generate \$1,200 dollars in revenue, which is sufficient to cover the initial purchase of \$800. A projection for the implementation of HB480 is that TRD will gain \$1,200 dollars in revenue and would gain more depending on how many batches of license plates are required.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) will collect \$23.00 in revenue per plate sold and an additional \$30 for the renewable license fee to use for BHSD. If TRD only creates one batch of 100 license plates, then HCA will generate \$2,300 in revenue from the initial fee and a subsequent \$3,000 for every year if all 100 license plate owners renew their license plate. If TRD continues to sell at least 100 license plates a year, then each subsequent year will experience \$3,000 more of renewable license fees compared to the previous year due to there being 100 new license plate owners. This recurring source of revenue is just a floor, and HCA should project at least \$2,300 of revenue generated for FY26, with a \$3,000 increase for each subsequent year if all new license plate owners renew. The limit of potential revenue generated for HCA is dependent on the total number of batches of license plates TRD makes and sells.

Regarding the implications for TRD’s operating budget, TRD said the following:

The Tapestry System’s general ledger and reporting will need to be updated for the new distribution. The estimated time to develop, test and implement the changes is approximately 480 hours or 3 months for an estimated \$32 thousand of staff workload cost.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

New Mexico has at least 40 specialty license plates, including 10 plates for colleges and universities, 11 related to military service, one for Santa Fe and one for Las Cruces, and plates for autism, wildlife, fish, the children’s trust fund, pet care, breast cancer awareness, Route 66, organ donors, Cumbres and Toltec railway, farm and ranch heritage, adoption, firefighters, pollinators, Smokey Bear, and other causes.

HCA said:

The NM suicide death rate decreased by 9% in 2023 compared to prior year. Additionally, the number of NM American Indian/Alaska Native residents who died by suicide decreased 43% compared to the prior year.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

TRD said:

This bill requires application and configuration changes to the Tapestry system to create a Suicide prevention license plate process, registration fee calculation and distribution for MVD and the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) of HCA.

HCA said:

HCA BHSD could utilize revenue collected to target specific suicide prevention efforts. These funds could be used for targeted suicide prevention programs, awareness campaigns, and crisis intervention services.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 23 – “Iron Horse” Motorcycle License plates – Allow the “Iron Horse” license plate to be distributed to Motorcycles.

House Bill 474 – Trail Life License Plate – Create a new license plate called the Trail Life License plate to generate additional revenue for the State Parks Division of EMNRD.

House Bill 507 – ABQ Isotopes License Plate - Create a new license plate called the ABQ Isotopes License Plate to generate additional revenue for the Carnegie Tingley Hospital.

House Bill 580 – Elk License Plate - Create a new license plate called the Elk License Plate to generate additional revenue for the game protection fund.

Senate Bill 236 – Look Twice for Motorcycle License Plate - Create a new license plate called the Look Twice for Motorcycle License Plate to generate additional revenue for the motorcycle training fund.

Senate Bill 327 – Lowrider Capital License Plate - Create a new license plate called the Lowrider Capital License Plate to generate additional revenue for DCA.

Senate Bill 377 – NM United License Plate - Create a new license plate called the NM United License Plate to generate additional revenue for Department of Tourism.

Senate Bill 501 – Make-A-Wish License Plate - Create a new license plate called the Make-A-Wish License Plate to generate additional revenue for the Department of Health.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

TRD said:

This bill does not specifically say that the Suicide Prevention Registration Plate can be issued to motorcycles as well as passenger vehicles. If it is the intent is to allow the issuance of the Suicide Prevention Registration Plate to motorcycles, a new statute specifically addressing this addition should be enacted to be constant with other specialty plates offered to both vehicles and motorcycles. An example would be the Children Trust Fund plate, under Section 66-3-420 and 66-3-420.1 NMSA 1978.

NM/hj/sgs