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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Godbey DATE TYPED: 03/09/01 HB 550
 SHORT TITLE: Yield to Emergency Vehicles SB _____
 ANALYST: Gonzales

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
		See Narrative			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Taxation and Revenue Department
 Department of Public Safety

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 550 states that all authorized emergency vehicles must have a visible red light, as well as a siren in order for the drivers of other vehicles to be required to yield the right-of-way and drive to the right hand edge of the curb. Previously, police vehicles had been exempted from the requirement of having a red light and only had to have a siren operating.

Significant Issues

It may be easier to pull over to the right when a driver actually see a red light, as opposed to just hearing a siren.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Police vehicles operated by the Department of Public Safety are equipped with emergency equipment that engages a red light when the siren is operating.

CONFLICT

Section 66-7-6(C) NMSA 1978 allows police vehicles, when operating as authorized emergency vehicles, to violate traffic regulations with a siren operating only.

JMG/nw