

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used in any other situation.

Only the most recent FIR version, excluding attachments, is available on the Intranet. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Griego DATE TYPED: 03/05/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Retired Firefighters's Special License Plate SB 771
 ANALYST: Gonzales

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
				Recurring	State Road Fund (\$9.98 per plate)
				Recurring	Counties (\$3.01 per plate)
				Recurring	Municipalities (\$0.80 per plate)
				Recurring	City and Municipal (\$1.21 per plate)
				Recurring	Motor Vehicle Division (10.00 per plate)

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 771 allows the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) to issue a special registration plate to retired firefighters upon satisfactory proof that he has retired from active employment as a firefighter. This bill also allows the TRD Secretary of the Taxation and Revenue Department to approve the final plate design for this purpose. Special firefighter plates must be returned when a

firefighter holding a special plate retires from his position as firefighter and shall be issued a retired firefighter plate on request and payment of the fee required.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

A one-time \$25.00 fees is charged for the issuance of these special registration plates of which \$10.00 is to be retained by the department with the remaining amount distributed along with other types of motor vehicle fees (See Section 66-6-23 and 66-6-23.1 NMSA 2978.)

The TRD reports it does not have information of the number of retired professional New Mexico firefighters. It is anticipated the revenue gains from issuing new plates with the associated one-time fee would not result in a noticeable fiscal impact on the State Road Fund or local governments.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No substantial impact on the department is expected.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

TRD reports:

There is no transition provision for retired New Mexico firefighters who retained their special plate upon retirement in the past. On the effective date of this bill, they would technically be required to turn-in their old plate and be issued a new retired firefighter" plate. The Motor Vehicle Division does not intend to strictly enforce this issue, and would allow new plates to be issued over the course of the normal re-registration cycle. It is also possible the new plates would not yet be available on the effective date of the bill.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to TRD, issuing special registration plates for various status firefighters may prove beneficial by providing a means of vehicle identification at a fire scene for traffic control measures. It is probably appropriate to distinguish between active employed firefighters, volunteer firefighters and (if they are allowed to keep a special plate) retired (professional) firefighters.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Is the bill intended to cover "retired" fighters?

Laws 1998, Chapter 21 (1998 HB-90) enacted a new section of the Motor Vehicle Code which provides special registration plates for any person "*employed*" as a New Mexico firefighter. Laws 200, Chapter 70 revised the law to include "*an active volunteer firefighter*". The "*volunteer*" plate is distinctly different from the "*New Mexico firefighter*" plate.

JMG/ar