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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Miera DATE TYPED: 02/14/01 HB 387
 SHORT TITLE: Height of Motorcycle Handlebars SB _____
 ANALYST: Hayes

APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB153

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

66-3-841 NMSA 1978
 Administrative Office of the Courts
 Taxation and Revenue Department, draft analysis

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 387 repeals Section 66-3-841 NMSA 1978 restricting the allowable height of motorcycle handlebars and how such height is measured.

Significant Issues

The statute being repealed currently states that motorcycle handlebars can not have an outer end raised more than fifteen inches above the level of the motorcycle seat where the driver/operator normally sits. Furthermore, “the level of the seat shall be determined as being the top of the seat when the seat is fully depressed.” By repealing this statute, the level of motorcycle handlebars may be raised or the motorcycle may be equipped with handlebars presumably at the desired height.

The issues of operator visibility and public safety may be a factor in raised handlebars; repealing this law may result in an increased rate of motorcycle accidents. However, this statute specifically addresses the allowable height of the *outer ends* of handlebars – the grip area wherein an operator would hold and steer the motorcycle.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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There is no fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The fine imposed for violation of Section 66-3-841 is \$10 per violation. There are no statistical records on how many people have been cited for violation of this motorcycle handlebar height law over the last 32 years.

CMH/njw:ar