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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Carraro DATE TYPED 02/16/2005 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Study Driving While Drowsy SJM 51

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
NFI	NFI				

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 51 asks the Department of Transportation to study the issue of drowsy driving and how it relates to motor vehicle crashes.

Significant Issues

There currently is very little New Mexico crash data on drowsy driving. This is true at the national level as well. Although there is a category (driver fatigue) under “driver’s condition” on the NM crash report, it is seldom used. This is because after a crash occurs, law enforcement relies on (among other things) observations and testimony to determine the cause of the crash. By the time law enforcement arrives, drivers are usually wide awake because of the incident and do not admit to being tired or fatigued. Therefore, it is difficult for law enforcement to determine that the crash was due to driver fatigue. This issue is very similar to the “driving with a cell phone” issue. It is likely that it happens much more often than it is reported and documented, but because it is difficult for law enforcement to prove, many of these crashes get lumped into the category of “driver inattention.”

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Minimal

GM/yr