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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/19/07

SPONSOR Chavez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1293

SHORT TITLE Disabled Persons Plates and Placards SB _____

ANALYST Earnest

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
	(\$4,471)	(\$4,651)	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1293 amends section 66-3-16 of the Motor Vehicle Code to expand eligibility for special registration plates to include all disabled persons. All disabled persons would be issued a placard or a plate after submitting a written application to the Motor Vehicle Division of TRD. Currently, eligibility for the special registration plate is limited to those who have suffered the loss or loss-of-use of one or both legs and/or one or both arms. The bill also removes the requirement that proof be provided by a physician, instead inserting language that a licensed physician has “attested to” a severe mobility impairment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to TRD, this bill would increase the number of persons eligible to receive the exemption from motor vehicle excise tax (Section 7-14-6 (D) NMSA 1978). The fiscal impact estimate represents 3.4 percent of total motor vehicle excise tax collections projected for FY 2008 & 2009. Approximately 70,000 New Mexicans currently hold handicapped parking placards. Also removing the requirement that proof be provided by a licensed physician would increase the probability of abuse and could have a greater impact on revenues from the motor vehicle excise tax.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The bill would amend the definition of disabled persons and require a disabled person to submit a written application to the Motor Vehicle Division for the special registration plate and parking placard.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

TRD indicates that the Motor Vehicle Division would not be able to validate an individual's claim for a special plate or placard, because of the removal of the provision requiring proof from a physician. The division will likely be issuing placard and plates to individuals that do not meet the requirements.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 1293 relates to House Bills 483, 465, 1055 and Senate Bills 177, 289, 905.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Several current bills amend the same section of statute – HB 483, 465, 1055, SB 177, 289, 905. If each bill is passed and then signed, the last one signed will become compiled law.

BE/mt