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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/26/07

SPONSOR Maestas LAST UPDATED _____ HM HJM 68

SHORT TITLE Study Decriminalization of Traffic Offenses SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Response Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorney (AODA)
Public Defender Department (PDD)

No Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts
Taxation and Revenue Department
New Mexico Municipal League
New Mexico Association of Counties

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 68 requests the Administrative Office of the Courts convene a task force of the following representatives: New Mexico Association of Counties, New Mexico Municipal League, Public Defender Department, New Mexico District Attorney Association and Motor Vehicle Division of the Taxation and Revenue Department. The task force is to study the feasibility of and procedure for decriminalizing traffic offenses and recasting traffic violations as civil infractions. The task force is to report on the study and any recommendation to the appropriate interim legislative committee no later than November 2007.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

AODA notes depending on the number of participants in this task force, agencies might face shortfalls in their travel budgets due to travel costs to attending meetings.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Most traffic offense violations provide for the imposition of only fines and not jail time. PDD notes it is not responsible for the representation of those individuals charged with only traffic offenses. The Public Defender Department does represent those charged with other criminal offenses that may arise out of the same incident where an individual is charged with a traffic offense.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Administrative Office of the Courts will be impacted administratively in convening the task force and conducting the study on the feasibility of and procedure for decriminalizing traffic offenses.

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