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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/07

SPONSOR Boitano LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Parking Placards for Pregnant Women SB 172

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)
Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 172 would require TRD to issue parking placards to pregnant women that would allow them to park in designated disabled person parking spaces for up to one year. To receive the placard, a pregnant woman would be required to submit a written application to the department containing medical statements from a licensed physician attesting to the pregnancy.

The bill also clarifies language in Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 pertaining to special registration plates issued to individuals with impaired motility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, doctors recommend pregnant women do more walking during their pregnancy, especially during the first six months of pregnancy. Under this legislation a woman could be issued a parking placard when they are two weeks pregnant. Pregnant woman usually can perform normal activities through their third trimester. This legislation grants placard for twelve months. By allowing a woman to have a parking placard, it would not only defeat the doctor's recommendation but could also displace someone who has a severe mobility impairment from being able to use an accessible parking place.

Under current law, pregnant women with mobility impairments can obtain a written medical statement from a licensed physician.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

TRD estimates that administrative costs of implementing the proposed legislation would be relatively minor and the duties could be performed with resources currently available to the department.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

TRD suggests the following changes and issues:

- 1) The proposed legislation could benefit from language clarifying use of disabled person parking placards.
- 2) The proposed legislation could also benefit from language indicating physical appearance of the proposed placards.
- 3) It is unclear whether the placards would be accepted in all jurisdictions of the state.

BE/nt