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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Adair ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/07
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Motorcycle Engine Displacement Allowance SB 219
ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 219 amends Section 66-5-5 of the Motor Vehicle Code by increasing the engine size allowed for issuance of a motorcycle license to a person thirteen years of age or older.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

TRD reports the provisions within the bill will impose no significant fiscal impacts on state or local revenue sources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Current statutes allow the Motor Vehicle Division to issue a license to drive a motorcycle to individuals that are thirteen years of age or older and who have pass an examination prescribed by the Division. However, recipients of the licenses are not permitted to drive a motorcycle driven by an engine in excess of one-hundred cubic centimeters in displacement. The proposed amendment will increase the allowable engine size from one-hundred cubic centimeters to one-hundred twenty-five cubic centimeters.

A 125cc motor scooter (note: a 125cc or less on-road motorcycle is generally configured as a motor scooter) can easily go 60 mph. The effect of this bill is to make bigger, faster scooters available for use by 13- and 14-year-old drivers. The 13- or 14-year-old who is licensed pursuant to Section 66-5-5 is permitted to ride a motorcycle on any of the public roads and highways of New Mexico, limited only by the size (engine displacement) of the motorcycle, a limited prohibition on carrying passengers, and the requirement that the driver wear a helmet.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB 219 may address the issue of unlicensed motorcycle operators for the reason that an estimated 33 percent of motorcycle operators killed in traffic crashes are either not licensed or improperly licensed to operate a motorcycle. By not obtaining a motorcycle operator license, riders may be bypassing the only method they and state licensing agencies have to ensure they have the knowledge and skill needed to safely and skillfully operate a motorcycle.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, "...per mile traveled in 2003, a motorcyclist is approximately 32 times more likely to die in a crash than someone riding in an automobile."

AHO/nt