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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/26/09

SPONSOR McSorley LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Traffic Law Public Awareness SB 73

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 Attorney General (AOG)
 New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 73 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to DPS to publicize and create public awareness of the requirements for drivers involved in accidents, the penalties for leaving the scene of an accident without fulfilling the necessary requirements and other related traffic laws

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY10 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMCD contributes the following information.

Pursuant to 66-7-201 NMSA 1978, any driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to any person or damage to any vehicle must provide certain basic information (name, address, vehicle registration number, etc.) to others involved in the accident and must render aid to others injured in the accident if needed. Pursuant to Section 66-7-203, the failure to stop or comply with the information/render aid requirements constitutes a fourth degree felony where the accident results in great bodily harm or death, and constitutes a third degree felony if the person knowingly fails to stop or comply with the information/render aid requirements (if the accident results in great bodily injury or death).

If the publicity and public awareness created by this appropriation results in one or more persons not violating the above-delineated laws that otherwise would have violated those laws, this would help lower NMCD costs by minimally reducing the prison population or probation/parole caseloads.

MW/svb