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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wirth ORIGINAL DATE 03/02/09  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Driver and Highway Safety Task Force SM 21  
ANALYST Lucero

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Minimal			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

Aging and Long Term Services Department (ALTSD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 21 requests that the Attorney General appoint a driver and highway safety task force to study changes needed in the Motor Vehicle Code to address driver and highway safety and propose legislation for making those changes and for addressing the problems raised by the loss of driving privileges.

The task force is to include representatives of the medical community, retiree advocacy groups, young people, persons with disabilities, the malpractice bar and the director of the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) of the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD).

The bill asks the Attorney General to convene the task force by August 2009 and then report its findings back to the appropriate legislative interim committee by September 2010.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial has no appropriation; however, implementing the directives contained in this bill would have a minimal administrative impact including staff time and appropriate supporting resources.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

It is unclear why the Attorney General's Office (AGO) is tasked with convening the task force. The expertise for addressing these issues is located within the MVD. Therefore, MVD may be better suited for convening the task force to address the identified issues.

The bill expresses concern with the fact that although driving ability may diminish with age or other circumstances, annual vision checks for drivers seventy-five years of age or older are the only reassessment of drivers required in New Mexico.

The memorial also expresses concern that young people who begin driver education training may be allowed to drive prior to receiving any training whatsoever.

The bill notes that other states require annual testing for persons beyond a certain age.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

It is unusual to have a task force convened by the Attorney General and not by the state agency or division most directly involved in and affected by the issues involved, or in this case the Taxation and Revenue Department - Motor Vehicle Division or the Department of Transportation and its Traffic Safety Bureau. SM21 does not require the Department of Transportation as a participating member of the task force.

**AMENDMENTS**

As the state agency working closely with issues relating to aging and disabilities, the Aging Long Term Services Department (ALTSD) would like to be represented on the task force.

DL/svb