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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Griego **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/07/15
LAST UPDATED 03/05/15 **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE Commercial Driver’s Licenses and Texting **SB** 428/aSJC
ANALYST Sanogo

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 NM Department of Transportation (NMDOT)
 Attorney General’s Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Judiciary (SJC) Amendment:

The SJC amends SB 428 to include voice messages in “mobile communication device” definitions, and clarifies the conditions disqualifying a person from driving a commercial vehicle (Section 3 E).

Synopsis of Original Bill:

SB 428 would amend the Motor Vehicle Code (Section 66, Article 5 NMSA 1978), and enact a new section such that:

- texting while driving would be defined as a serious traffic violation,
- the use of a handheld mobile communication device while driving a commercial motor vehicle would be prohibited (and adds a penalty), and
- a person would be disqualified from driving a commercial vehicle for life if convicted of using any motor vehicle in the commission of certain felonies.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impacts (see “Significant Issues,” for contingent fiscal impacts).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Section 3 of SB 428 would bring New Mexico into compliance with federal regulations regarding the disqualification of commercial driver’s licenses (CFR Title 49, Section 384.401).

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According the NM Department of Transportation (DOT), failing to enact section 3 of SB 428 could entail a loss of \$36 million per fiscal year in federal-aid highway funding.

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