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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/17

SPONSOR Rehm LAST UPDATED _____ HB 183

SHORT TITLE Drivers' Ed Course Certification SB _____

ANALYST Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal			Recurring	NMDOT Operating Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 183 (HB183) would amend the Driving School Licensing Act (Act) to require the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Traffic Safety Bureau to certify motor vehicle accident prevention and driver safety courses. The bill also clarifies an exemption in the Act for nonprofit corporations that provide courses exclusively for drivers who are age 50 or older, by specifying that exempt providers are those which provide the same number of classroom motor vehicle accident instruction hours as those that are required for for-profit courses certified by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not include an appropriation.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) notes if HB183 is enacted, the Transportation Safety Bureau would need to (1) update applicable driver safety regulations; (2) develop standards for a curriculum for drivers age 50 and older; and (3) specify the number of instruction hours required for the subject courses. This would require minimal operating costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) indicates its Traffic Safety Bureau is responsible for the development and implementation of the uniform standards for the issuance, renewal and revocation of driver education school licenses and driver education instructor certificates. The Traffic Safety Bureau currently licenses for-profit driver safety schools and instructors that provide court-ordered driver safety courses for misdemeanor traffic offenders or drivers whose driver's licenses have been suspended by the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division based on the point assessment system.

Currently, the Driving School Licensing Act does not apply to nonprofit corporations that provide motor vehicle accident prevention courses exclusively for drivers who are age 50 or older. The American Automobile Association (AAA) and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are nonprofit entities that offer these courses for drivers in this age group.

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