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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pirtle ORIGINAL DATE _____ LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Permanent Day Light Savings Time SB 226

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB73

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 226 proposes setting the Mountain Daylight Savings Time Zone as the permanent year round time for New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 226 has no fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The federal Uniform Time Act of 1966 was enacted to promote the adoption and observance of uniform time within the standard time zones of the United States and established an annual advancement from standard time in the month of March each year (daylight savings time) and back to standard time approximately eight months later. The law allows states to exempt themselves from advancement from standard time if the state is wholly within one-time zone. There is no provision for a state to advance to daylight savings time on a permanent basis.

As a result, for this bill to go into effect, the federal law would need to be changed or the state request an exception from the US Secretary of Transportation.

According to NMDOT, citing a report from Tufts University, Arizona (except for the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands has enacted legislation which exempts them from daylight savings time adjustments.

No state or territory has attempted to remain year round on daylight savings time.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMDOT states research regarding the merits of daylight savings time varies but was based upon the premise of reducing energy use but studies have not identified much savings. Lastly, NMDOT cites a series of Rasmussen Reports that found 47 percent of Americans “don’t think the time change is worth the hassle.”

NMDOT states construction and highway maintenance operations adjust to meet available daylight hours so this bill would have no impact on its operations.

GAC/gb/sb