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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pirtle ORIGINAL DATE 02/02/21
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Daylight Saving Time SB 102
ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

Tourism Department (TD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 102 proposes setting the Mountain Daylight Savings Time Zone as the permanent year round time for New Mexico if and when federal legislation is passed which would allow states to do so.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 102 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 U.S. 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.

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.”

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

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

The Tourism Department notes that “changing New Mexico’s time zone to remain on MDT would mean that outdoor businesses that operate in daylight hours would need to adjust their business hours to accommodate the change, and may lose revenue.”

CJ/al