

**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**Taxation and Revenue Department**

**February 21, 2025**

**Bill:** HB-507

**Sponsor:** Representative Joshua N. Hernandez

**Short Title:** ABQ Isotopes License Plate

**Description:** This bill creates an Albuquerque Isotopes special registration plate beginning January 1, 2026. The plate shall have a logo designed pursuant to Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 to express support for the Albuquerque Isotopes baseball team. The initial fee for the plate is \$35 in addition to regular motor vehicle registration fees and a renewal fee of \$25 each year to retain and renew the plate. Of the additional motor vehicle fees, \$12 of the initial fee collected shall be retained by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) for the manufacture and issuance of the plate and the remaining portion of the initial fee and the entire renewal fee collected for each plate shall be distributed to and is appropriated to the board of regents of the university of New Mexico for the Carrie Tingley children's hospital. The bill provides a formula starting in 2031 to determine whether MVD may stop issuing this plate.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026

**Taxation and Revenue Department Analyst:** Htet Gonzales and Sean Bulian – Motor Vehicle Division

Estimated Revenue Impact*					R or NR**	Fund(s) Affected
FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029		
	Unknown				R	MVD Suspense Fund

\* In thousands of dollars. Parentheses ( ) indicate a revenue loss. \*\* Recurring (R) or Non-Recurring (NR).

**Methodology for Estimated Revenue Impact:** It is unknown how many of these plates will be requested. MVD's total cost of manufacturing and distributing each license plate is approximately \$10, which includes materials and shipping. The \$12 fee retained by MVD will be adequate to cover the initial costs for the manufacture and issuance of the initial plate to the applicant. Creation of the new specialty plate must be in accordance with existing state statute under Section 66-3-424 NMSA 1978 (Standardized Special Registration Plates with Logos), in particular "Shall provide a prepayment to the division in an amount sufficient to cover the plate and logo costs of the initial order". Typically, the initial fee to purchase plates is \$800; \$250 for design/artwork costs while \$5.50 is charged for each plate in the initial batch of 100.

**Policy Issues:** None

**Technical Issues:** This bill does not specifically say that the Albuquerque Isotopes Registration Plate can be issued to motorcycles as well as passenger vehicles. If it is the intent is to allow the issuance of the Albuquerque Isotopes Registration Plate to motorcycles, a new statute specifically addressing this addition should be enacted to be constant with other specialty plates offered to both vehicles and motorcycles. An example would be the Children Trust Fund plate, under Section 66-3-420 and 66-3-420.1 NMSA 1978.

**Other Issues:** MVD has not analyzed the implications of a privately-owned athletics team being recognized through State-issued license plates.

**Administrative & Compliance Impact:** Implementation of this bill will have a moderate impact on Tax  
HB-507

& Revenue’s Information Technology Division (ITD). The estimated time to develop, test and implement the changes is approximately 480 hours or 3 months for an estimated \$31,987 of staff workload cost.

This bill requires application and configuration changes to the Tapestry system to create an Albuquerque Isotopes license plate process, registration fee calculation and distribution for MVD and the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the Carrie Tingley crippled children's hospital.

This legislation is anticipated to have a low impact on ASD/FDB. The Tapestry System’s general ledger and reporting will need to be updated for the new distribution. Defining business requirements and testing changes to Tapestry and associated reports will take 20 hours for 2.0 existing FTE and will be split between pay band 80 and 70. Fiscal year end reporting will also require updating to accommodate the new distribution.

<b>Estimated Additional Operating Budget Impact*</b>				<b>R or NR**</b>	<b>Fund(s) or Agency Affected</b>
<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>		
	\$32			NR	MVD Suspense Fund – Staff Workload Cost
	\$1.3			NR	Operating

\* In thousands of dollars. Parentheses ( ) indicate a cost saving. \*\* Recurring (R) or Non-Recurring (NR).

**Related Bills:**