

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 327 proposes the creation of a special “Lowrider Capitol of the World” registration plate for motor vehicles, motorcycles, and tow trailers. The plates will feature a design developed in collaboration with the Española Lowrider Association, recognizing the state’s cultural significance in lowrider history.

The special registration plate will be an initial 50-dollar fee for vehicles and trailers, 40 dollars for motorcycles, a 20-dollar annual renewal fee, and regular registration fees. A portion of the revenue will be distributed to the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), to cover production costs, while the remainder will fund the Cultural Affairs Department for educational materials and museum exhibits on lowrider culture.

Beginning in July of 2028, MVD will determine if plate renewals drop below 50 percent of the average number of plates issued in fiscal years 2026 and 2027. If plate renewals drop below the 50 percent, issuance of this category will cease starting in 2029.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico Tourism Department (NMTD) is currently promoting the Route 66 Centennial and hopes to attract car enthusiasts, historians, and collectors. A stronger official connection to lowrider culture might lead to an increase for event promotion in relation to lowriders, potentially boosting museum visits and tourism activities.

SB 327 does not impact the NMTD directly.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB 239, Espanola Lowrider Museum.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status Quo.

AMENDMENTS

None.