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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

<b>SPONSOR</b>	Lundstrom/Johnson/Lujan/Lara/ De La Cruz	<b>LAST UPDATED</b>	
		<b>ORIGINAL DATE</b>	2/1/2025
<b>SHORT TITLE</b>	Stop, Look & Listen For Railroad Equipment	<b>BILL NUMBER</b>	House Bill 160
		<b>ANALYST</b>	Hanika-Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
TRD		Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal		Recurring	Other State Funds
Law Enforcement		Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal		Recurring	County General Funds

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From  
New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)  
Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of House Bill 160

House Bill 160 (HB160) amends the Motor Vehicle Code to require all drivers to stop a certain distance from and look for other on-track equipment, besides trains, at railroad crossings.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In New Mexico, a violation of the statute, along with other railroad crossing violations, is \$150.

Fines collected from the infraction would be processed by the courts. The Department of Transportation (NMDOT) would have expenses related to public awareness campaigns; and local governments would have costs related to enforcement.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

At railroad crossings, only trains have the right-of-way over all other traffic. The bill would add “other on-track equipment” at all railroad-highway grade crossings.

The bill describes “other on-track equipment” as “any car, rolling stock or other device that alone or coupled to another device is operated on stationary rails.” The bill would require all drivers, including school bus drivers and drivers carrying hazardous materials, to abide by certain stopping distance requirements when approaching “other on-track equipment,” not just trains.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

If this bill becomes law, it would be incorporated into the state’s traffic laws and added to enforcement duties for the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Duplicates Senate Bill 135 from the 2023 legislative session.

Relates to House Bill 146, the Railway Safety Act, mandating the use of certain safety systems.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

A railroad-highway grade crossing is an intersection where a road or path meets tracks at the same level. According to data from the Federal Railroad Administration, which sets standards for crossings, there were nine railroad-highway grade crossing incidents in New Mexico in 2023.

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