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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Joint Resolution 1/aHJC

SHORT TITLE: Boards of Regents Nominating Committees, CA

SPONSOR: Rep. Chandler/Sen. Steinborn

LAST UPDATE: _____ **ORIGINAL DATE:** 1/26/26 **ANALYST:** Jorgensen _____

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Secretary of State	\$0.0	\$35.0-\$50.0	\$0.0	\$35.0-50.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Higher Education Department

Independent Community Colleges

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJC Amendment

The House Judiciary Committee amendment to House Joint Resolution 1 increases, from six months to 12 months, the period during which a nominating commission member may not have changed political party affiliation prior to nomination.

Synopsis of House Joint Resolution 1

House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) proposes a constitutional amendment to create nominating commissions for the higher education institutions enumerated in the constitution. The amendment proposes the governor must choose non-student members from a list of candidates put forth by a nominating commission. The amendment states no more than 50 percent of the nominating commission members may be of the same political party and that no member may have changed their political affiliation within six months preceding appointment. Student regents must be selected by the governor from a list provided by an elected student governing body. The student body provision does not apply to special schools.

The joint resolution provides the amendment be put before the voters at the next general election (November 2026) or a special election called for the purpose of considering the amendment. The amendment would only be effective if approved by voters.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Under Section 1-16-4 NMSA 1978 and the New Mexico Constitution, the Secretary of State (SOS) is required to print samples of the text of each constitutional amendment in both Spanish and English in an amount equal to 10 percent of the registered voters in the state. SOS is required to publish the samples once a week for four weeks preceding the election in newspapers in every county in the state. The number of constitutional amendments on the ballot may impact the ballot page size or cause the ballot to be more than one page, also increasing costs. The estimated cost per constitutional amendment is \$35 thousand to \$50 thousand, depending on the size and number of ballots and if additional ballot stations are needed.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Should the constitutional amendment be approved by voters, nominating committees will be established for each state institution in Article XII, Section 11, of the Constitution. The institutions are the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, Western New Mexico University, Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, New Mexico School for the Deaf, and Northern New Mexico State School.

Should HJR1 be adopted by voters, the Legislature would need to create the nominating commission in law.

CJ/ct/hg/sgs/dw