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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Joint Resolution 7

SHORT TITLE: Consideration of Bills in All Sessions, CA

SPONSOR: McQueen and Montoya

LAST UPDATE: 1/26/26 **ORIGINAL DATE:** 1/26/26 **ANALYST:** Garcia

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
SOS	Up to \$52	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	Up to \$50.0	Nonrecurring	Other state funds
LCS	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	Recurring	General Fund
Total	Up to \$52	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	Up to \$50	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Joint Resolution 6

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Secretary of State

Attorney General

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Joint Resolution 7

House Joint Resolution 7 (HJR7) proposes an amendment to Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of New Mexico that would remove restrictions on bills that may be considered in even-numbered years. The proposed constitutional amendment would also allow the legislature to consider veto overrides for bills of a previous regular, special, or extraordinary session.

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. SOS analysis suggests the 2024 voter guide cost approximately \$52 thousand to print. These costs would impact the election fund (other state funds), which receives appropriations from the general fund.

HJR7 does not change the length of time the legislature meets, the primary cost driver of the legislative session. By removing restrictions of the types of bills considered, particularly during a 30-day legislative session, the result may be the legislature considers more bills during 30-day sessions, impacting the workload of staff who support bill analysis and production. Legislative agencies, including the Legislative Council Service, Legislative Finance Committee, and Legislative Education Study Committee hire temporary and contract staff to work legislative sessions. The increased workload during 30-day sessions could increase expenses related to these temporary and contract staff, should more be required. However, this analysis assumes the additional workload can be absorbed in existing agency budgets.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Existing statute, Section 2-6-1(B) NMSA 1978, imposes time limits within which bills may be introduced during sessions of the Legislature. While not in conflict with HJR7, this section of statute limits introduction of most bills to the 30th legislative day in sessions held during odd years and the 15th legislative day in sessions held in even-numbered years. If HJR7 is approved by voters and statute is not subsequently changed, these limitations remain in effect.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If HJR7 is ratified by voters, and until the proposed change is fully adopted, there will be additional work for the Legislative Council Service while they update rules and procedures for the Legislature. Existing staff and budget resources should be sufficient to accomplish this effort.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This joint resolution relates to House Joint Resolution 6 (HJR6), which also proposes a constitutional amendment to remove restrictions on bills that may be considered in even-numbered years. The constitutional amendment proposed in HJR6 would also allow the legislature to consider veto overrides for bills of a previous regular, special, or extraordinary session. HJR6 also proposes changes to the length of legislative sessions not contained in HJR7.