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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cervantes ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/21
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Legislative Term Limits, CA SJR 23

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$150.0- \$200.0		\$150.0 - \$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 23 (SJR23) proposes to ask voters to decide whether to amend Article 4, Section 4 of the New Mexico Constitution to limit the number of consecutive terms a state legislator may serve.

If passed, SJR23 would be submitted to the voters of New Mexico for their approval or rejection at the next general election, or at any special election that may be called for this purpose.

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 Spanish and English, in an amount equal to ten percent of the registered voters in the state. The SOS is also required to publish them once a week for four weeks preceding the election in newspapers in every county in the state. The estimated cost per constitutional amendment is \$150 thousand-\$200 thousand depending upon the size and number of ballots and if additional ballot stations are needed.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

If approved by the voters, all legislators would be limited to 12 years of consecutive service.

A senator's initial term, no matter what county they are from, would remain at four years and initial terms for members of the House of Representatives would remain at two years. Senators would be limited to three consecutive terms and members of the house to six consecutive terms.

The NMAG explained that SJR23 makes clear that time served prior to January 2023 would not be counted toward the twelve-year term limit starting on or after 2023.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 15 states currently have term limits. Term limits may be divided into two categories; consecutive and lifetime. With consecutive term limits, a legislator is limited to serving a particular number of years in a chamber. Upon hitting the limit in one chamber, a legislator may run for election in the other chamber. With lifetime limits, once a legislator has served up to the limit, she/he may never again run for election to that office.

AHO/rl/al