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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/5/07

SPONSOR Moore LAST UPDATED _____ HM HJR 4

SHORT TITLE Limit 30-Day Session Bill Types SB _____

ANALYST Fernandez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Office of Attorney General (OAG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Resolution 4 proposes to amend Article 4, Section 5 of the New Mexico constitution which determines the circumstances when a bill is germane in an even-numbered year or 30 day legislative session. HJR 4 proposes to amend the provision that currently limits bills drawn pursuant to special messages from the governor to limit bills that address major disasters or emergencies declared by the president of the United States drawn pursuant to special messages from the governor.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is possible that fewer bills would result in a cost savings of staff time drafting and analyzing bills. Additional savings may be realized in the printing and distribution of bills. It is indeterminate at this time or the fiscal year in which a savings would materialize.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal would significantly limit the number of bills that can be considered by the legislature during a 30-day session by restricting the special messages of the governor to bills that address major disasters or emergencies declared by the president of the United States.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Office of the Attorney General points out that phrase on page 2, lines 9-10, “bills limited to addressing major disasters or emergencies declared by the president of the United States” is unclear. Is a declaration by the president necessary for both major disasters and emergencies, or just emergencies?

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to Office of the Attorney General:

Currently, “the governor has the power to declare and take steps to address emergencies pursuant to section 12-10-4 NMSA 1978.”

CTF/nt