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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	Rep Montoya/Sen Gonzales/Sen Gallegos/Rep H Garcia/Rep Szczepanski	LAST UPDATED	
		ORIGINAL DATE	2/23/2023
SHORT TITLE	Legislative Session Changes, CA	BILL NUMBER	House Joint Resolution 14
		ANALYST	Leger

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
			\$150.0 - \$200.0	\$150.0 - \$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund
Total				See fiscal implications for future year costs.	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Joint Resolution 8
 Conflicts with House Joint Resolution 2

Sources of Information

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Joint Resolution 14

House Joint Resolution 14 proposes to amend Section 4 of the New Mexico Constitution to change the length of every regular legislative session to 45 days and allows all subject matters to be considered.

HJR14 is to be submitted for approval by the people of the state in the next general election (November 2024) or any special election called for that 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 both Spanish and English in an amount equal to 10 percent of the registered voters in the state. SOS is also required to publish the samples 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 to

\$200 thousand depending on the size and number of ballots and if additional ballot stations are needed.

The estimated cost increase from a 30-day session to a 45-day session is \$1.5 million. However, shortening the 60-day session to 45 days is likely to reduce costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Section 1(B), while removing the limitations as to what bills may be considered in a regular legislative session in an even-numbered year, expressly provides for consideration of veto override for bills of the last previous regular session vetoed by the governor. It might be argued that by providing for this specific action, any other actions are not authorized during a regular session during an even-numbered year.

In the agency response to HJR2, which would change the length of every regular legislative session to 60 days, NMAG notes that existing law imposes a time limit within which bills may be introduced during sessions of the Legislature. While not in conflict with HJR14, this section limits introduction of most bills to the 30th legislative day in sessions held in the odd-numbered years and the 15th legislative day in sessions held in even-numbered years. It appears these limitations will remain in effect if HJR14 is approved by the voters.

CONFLICT, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to House Joint Resolution 8 concerning legislative salaries.

Conflicts with House Joint Resolution 2, which would change the length of every regular session to 60 days.

JL/mg/hg/mg