

LFC Requester:

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://agencyanalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)**

***(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)***

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** 2/1/2026

*Check all that apply:*

**Bill Number:** SJR 4

Original ☒ Correction ☐

Amendment ☐ Substitute ☐

**Sponsor:** Linda M. López  
Shannon D. Pinto  
Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Agency Name**

**and Code**

Secretary of State - 370

**Number:**

**Person Writing**

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**Short  
Title:**

SESSION LENGTH & BILL  
CONSIDERATION, CA

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation |      | Recurring<br>or Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY25          | FY26 |                              |                  |
|               |      |                              |                  |
|               |      |                              |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

| Estimated Revenue |      |      | Recurring<br>or<br>Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| FY25              | FY26 | FY27 |                                 |                  |
|                   |      |      |                                 |                  |
|                   |      |      |                                 |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

|  | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | 3 Year<br>Total Cost | Recurring or<br>Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|--|------|------|------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
|  |      |      |      |                      |                              |                  |

|              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Total</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

SJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment question be included in the next general election or any special election prior to that date that will be called for such purpose. The question asks voters to approve or reject an amendment to Article 4, Section 5 of the Constitution of New Mexico by changing the length of legislative sessions in even-numbered years to sixty days, removing the restrictions on bills that may be considered in even-numbered years and providing for consideration of veto overrides for bills of a regular, a special or an extraordinary legislative session within the same legislative biennium.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the bill passes, the constitutional amendment might be decided by the voters in the next general election which is in FY27. It might also be decided by a special election prior to that time or other statewide election. In either case, for the purposes of determining the costs involved, the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) wishes to inform legislators that, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 1-16-4, and Article 19 Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution, the SOS is required to publish the ballot question for each proposed constitutional amendment, in both Spanish and English.

The SOS is constitutionally required to publish the ballot question of each proposed constitutional amendment once a week for four consecutive weeks preceding the election in one newspaper in every county in the state. The cost will vary on the length of the ballot question. In 2024, the SOS published four ballot questions for proposed constitutional amendments at a cost of approximately \$140,950.

The SOS also produces a general election voter guide that includes information about proposed constitutional amendments and provides it to voters at polling locations. The cost of producing the voter guide will change depending upon the number and length of the constitutional amendments passed and the number of registered voters. However, as a reference, the 2024 voter guide cost approximately \$52,000 from GSD State Printing.

The number of constitutional amendments that pass may also impact the page size of the ballot, or if the ballot size is caused to become greater than one page, front and back, which will increase the cost of producing the ballots for the general election. In addition to the cost of the ballot, there may be time added to the voting process, which would require additional ballot printing systems to ensure a smooth and efficient voting process within the bounds of national best practices.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The proposed changes in SJR 4 would impact the duration of the prohibitive periods for fundraising, as defined in 1-19-34.1 NMSA 1978.

During the period beginning January 1 prior to any regular session of the legislature, and ending on adjournment of the regular session, it is unlawful for a state legislator, the attorney general, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the commissioner of public lands or the state auditor or a candidate for state legislator, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer, commissioner of public lands or state auditor, or any agent on behalf of the attorney general, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the commissioner of public lands or the state auditor or a candidate for attorney general, the secretary of state, state treasurer, commissioner of public lands or state auditor, to knowingly solicit a contribution governed by the Campaign Reporting Act.

It is also unlawful during the prohibited period for the governor or the lieutenant governor, or any agent on the governor's or the lieutenant governor's behalf, to knowingly solicit a contribution governed by the Campaign Reporting Act during the period beginning January 1 prior to any regular session of the legislature and ending on the twentieth day following the adjournment of the regular or special session.

In addition, it is unlawful during the prohibited period for any lobbyist or lobbyist's employer to contribute to or act as an agent or intermediary for political contributions to or arrange for the making of political contributions to the campaign funds of any statewide elected official or legislator or any candidate for those offices.

Pursuant to 1-8-26 NMSA 1978, declarations of candidacy and other candidate documents shall be filed with the proper filing officer on the first Tuesday in February of each even-numbered year between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Declarations of candidacy for any other office to be nominated in the primary election shall be filed with the proper filing officer on the second Tuesday of March of each even-numbered year between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo.

## **AMENDMENTS**