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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Memorial 7

SHORT TITLE: Redistricting Task Force

SPONSOR: Figueroa

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/13/26 **ANALYST:** Gygi

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
LCS	No fiscal impact	Up to \$100.0	Up to \$100.0	Up to \$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund
SEC	No fiscal impact	\$40.0	No fiscal impact	\$40.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund
Total	No fiscal impact	Up to \$140.0	Up to \$100.0	Up to \$240.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to Senate Memorial 1

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

State Ethics Commission

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Secretary of State

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Memorial 7

Senate Memorial 7 (SM7) requests a task force be convened to review the Redistricting Act (Sections 1-3A-1 to 1-3A-9 NMSA 1978) and make recommendations on how to improve New Mexico's redistricting process, including proposed legislation to implement the recommendations. The memorial emphasizes the importance of a culturally, economically, and geographically diverse task force with representation from across the state.

The task force would consist of 13 to 15 members. Members would be appointed one each by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the minority floor leader of the senate and the minority floor leader of the House of Representatives (four total). The state chairs or designees of each major political party would also serve as members. The remaining seven to nine members would be appointed by the State Ethics Commission (SEC) and would be selected from the following categories:

- At least three members not affiliated with a major political party;
- At least one member of the 2021 citizen redistricting committee;
- Two representatives of Indian nations, tribes or pueblos; and
- One member with experience in demography and geolocation.

The membership may include representatives from state organizations that work on voting, elections, government transparency and democracy, and the Legislative Council Service (LCS) would provide staffing support for the task force.

The task force is asked to present its findings and recommendations to LCS and at least two additional interim committees for discussion by December 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not carry appropriations nor the weight of law. This analysis assumes a cost of up to \$100 thousand for LCS to convene the task force, to include legislator per diem and travel and contractor support, if needed

SEC estimates a cost of \$40 thousand for its role in identifying, vetting, and selecting applicants and appointing members.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Laws 2021, Chapter 79, created the Citizen Redistricting Committee, tasked with adopting three district plans for the state’s congressional districts, the state House of Representatives, the state Senate, and other state offices required to be redistricted. The citizens committee develops district plans for approval by the Legislature and the governor. The committee was created to help counteract gerrymandering in the redistricting process following the decennial census, which resulted in court battles in 2001 and 2011. The committee is only advisory and the maps created are not binding. The proposed task force would consider how the current process is working, focusing on diversity in committee makeup and public participation. The task force would examine other states' successes and failures in regard to revising the redistricting process, and consider whether an independent commission whose recommendations do not require approval by the governor or Legislature is required.

The New Mexico Attorney General comments in its analysis for the related House Memorial 1:

Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution states that “*The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.*” This Elections Clause has been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court as giving states primary responsibility for redistricting, subject to Congress’s ability to create federal rules.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SM1 urging the U.S. Congress to pass legislation to require uniform redistricting criteria and uniform process standards for the U.S. House of Representatives apportionment and to prohibit states from midcycle redistricting unless ordered by a court.

Senate Memorial 7 – Page 3

Relates to House Joint Resolution 10 and Senate Joint Resolution 7 in 2024 and Senate Joint Resolution 9 in 2025, all of which sought to create a permanent independent New Mexico redistricting commission through constitutional amendments.

KG/sgs/hg/sgs