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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Begaye ORIGINAL DATE 02/07/10
LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 33
SHORT TITLE Study Domestic Partnership Law Implications SB _____
ANALYST Wilson

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$25.0-\$100.0			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 121, HJR 8, SB 146, SB 183 & SJR 1

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)

State Personnel Office (SPO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 33 recognizes that the enactment of a domestic partnership law could have far reaching implications on various laws and state and local agencies rules, policies, operations and budgets.

The legislation directs the Legislative Council Service (LCS) to appoint a committee to study and project the financial effects and State expenses of implementing the domestic partnership law.

A report will be due to the LCS on August 30, 2010, for submission to the Governor and Co-Chairs of the Council.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation for any of the agencies involved with this study. The affected agencies will have to participate with this committee with existing resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The resolution anticipates new causes of action in the courts, which could add new costs for the judiciary. Also expected are demands on law enforcement, increasing their costs; potential changes to any affected agency, forms and affidavits for all marriages, and possibly other unintended consequences.

The memorial references the various aspects of existing law that would potentially be affected by passage of a domestic partnership bill, and the costs associated with the changes passage of such a bill would entail. The memorial seems to be particularly concerned with unintended consequences and their cost in the difficult budget climate of the State.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Analysts of the LFC, attorneys with the LCS and staff of the Department of Finance & Administration are required to assist with this project.

HJM 33 does not specifically require any judicial entity to participate in the study. If the LCS asked for a representative of the AOC or courts to attend and participate as needed in the meetings of the committee, such participation might result in unanticipated travel costs. These costs cannot be estimated at this time.

RELATIONSHIP

HJM 33 relates to:

- HB 121, Marriage Defined
- HJR 8, Marriage Defined
- SB 146, Change Marriage License Forms
- SB 183, Domestic Partnerships
- SJR 1, Marriage Defined

DW/svb