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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Bandy/Ivey Soto **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/29/16
LAST UPDATED 2/17/16 **HB** CS/143/HJC

SHORT TITLE Change Dates for Certain Elections **SB** _____

ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	Minimal*	Minimal*	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*see fiscal implications below.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

No Response Received From

County Clerk Affiliate (CCA)

SUMMARY

Summary of Original Bill

The House Judiciary Committee Substitute for House Bill 143 changes the dates on which certain elections are conducted to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years and changes election procedures to reflect the uniform election dates. The amendment provides a single election date for the following elections:

- School district
- Special taxes imposed for special hospital districts
- Special hospital districts
- Community college board
- Technical or vocational district
- Learning center tax levy
- General obligation bonds of Schools districts
- Public school capital improvements
- Public school buildings

- Public School Lease Purchase Act
- Conservancy district
- Soil and watershed conservation district
- Water and sanitation district
- Special Zoning Districts

The bill also strikes language stipulating that if a conservation district is indebted to the federal or state government at the time of expiration of a conservation district tax levy, the district may not renew the levy for a period of time exceeding the maturity of the date of the indebtedness. Additionally, the bill allows for bond and mill levy elections to be held at any time of year, but stipulates that if the election is set for a date other than the date of the consolidated election, the election must be conducted with mail-in ballots sent to all qualified electors in the special district.

The effective date of the provisions within to July 1, 2018

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The SOS states “this bill would cause minimal fiscal implications to the SOS.”

No response was received from the CCA. However, in a prior year analysis, CCA stated that passage of similar legislation would “save tax payers of New Mexico a significant amount of money by consolidating elections.”

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CCA stated in the a prior year response to similar legislation that without election date consolidation, voters will continue to be confused with regard to voting locations and voting dates for various elections that do not carry federal candidates. Additionally, entities responsible for holding elections will continue to spend thousands of tax dollars on elections with little public participation.

The SOS states that running all of these elections concurrently may cause the counties to need to obtain extra equipment such as ballot boxes, tabulators and ballot on demand systems.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SOS writes:

Consolidating the elections of these various entities will require a division of costs to be calculated amongst the consolidated entities holding elections together. Calculating the cost-responsibility for each entity participating in the election could be problematic.

CJ/jle/jo