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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/20/19

SPONSOR Pratt LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 468

SHORT TITLE Signatures Required on Nominating Petitions SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Glenn

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

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate			See Fiscal Implications

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 86, HB 93, HB 292, HB 407, SB 52, SB 99, SB 418

Conflicts with HB 407, SB 99

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 468 makes changes to provisions of the Election Code governing requirements for nominating petitions.

Section 1 amends Section 1-8-2 NMSA 1978 to replace the current calculation for determining the required number of voter signatures on minor political party nominating petitions with a requirement for signatures totaling not less than:

- (1) one hundred for the public education commission or state representative;
  - (2) two hundred for district attorney, district judge or state senator;
  - (3) five hundred for the public regulation commission or United States representative;
- and

(4) one thousand for statewide office, United States senator or the office of president of the United States.

Nominating petitions are not required for the office of metropolitan court judge, or for an elected county office, including the office of magistrate court judge.

Section 2 of HB 468 provides that nominating petitions for candidates seeking preprimary convention designation and for candidates who fail to receive a preprimary convention designation must contain the same number of voter signatures for the same offices specified in Section 1. Section 2 specifies that nominating petitions are not required for the office of metropolitan court judge or an elected county office, requires that a nominating petition contain a statement that voters signing the petition are residents of the area to be represented by the office, and requires that a voter who signs a petition for a major party candidate must be a member of the same party as the candidate.

Section 3 requires that nominating petitions for independent candidates contain the same number of voter signatures for the same offices specified in Section 1. Section 3 specifies that nominating petitions are not required for the office of metropolitan court judge or an elected county office, and requires that a nominating petition contain a statement that voters signing the petition are residents of the area to be represented by the office.

Section 4 amends the Presidential Primary Act to provide that a petition submitted by a person seeking the endorsement by the national political party for the office of U.S. president must be signed by at least one thousand registered voters.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SOS notes that the likely increase in the number of qualified candidates resulting from the bill would result in a concomitant increase in the workload of SOS, which would require additional financial, personnel and other resources.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SOS and NMAG note that the reduction in the number of voter signatures effected by HB 468 and because signature requirements will apply to all candidates regardless of party affiliation, the bill, if enacted, would likely result in an increase in the number of qualified candidates.

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

Relates to:

HB 86 Election Day & Early Voting Registration  
HB 93 Primary Election Participation by DTS Voters  
HB 292 Early Voting Voter Privacy  
HB 407 Election Law 50-Year Tune Up  
SB 52 Register to Vote Three Days Prior to Election  
SB 99 Appointment of PRC Members  
SB 418 Non-Affiliated Voters in Primary Elections

Conflicts with:

HB 407, which also amends Sections 1-8-2 & 1-8-51 NMSA 1978

SB 99, which also amends Sections 1-8-2, 1-8-33, & 1-8-51 NMSA 1978

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