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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

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(Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Click all that apply: **Date Prepared:** 2026-01-20

Original **Amendment** _____ **Bill No:** HJR1
Correction _____ **Substitute** _____

Agency Name and Code NMHED

Sponsor: Chandler, Christine **Number:** _____
BOARDS OF REGENTS **Person Writing:** Gallegos, Brittany

Short Title: NOMINATING COMMITTEES, CA **Phone:** 5056706478 **Email:** gallegos@hed.nm.gov
brittany.

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
N/A	N/A	N/A		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A			

(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

House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) amends Article 12, Section 13 of the Constitution of New Mexico. This amendment changes how members of the boards of regents for New Mexico’s higher education institutions (HEIs) are appointed and requires that the proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to voters for approval or rejection at the next general election or at a special election held prior to that date if called for that purpose.

The proposed amendment would require nominating committees to submit lists of qualified nominees to the Governor for appointment of non-student regents and would require student regents to be appointed from a list provided by an HEI’s elected student governing body. It also requires that non-student regents have not changed their political party registration in the six months prior to appointment.

The amendment adds a new subsection (F) establishing requirements for nominating committees for each HEI enumerated in Article 12, Section 11, including that:

- No more than 50% of committee members may be from the same political party; and
- Committee members may not have changed party registration within the six months preceding appointment.

The following amendments are proposed for each subsection of Article 12, Section 13 of the Constitution of New Mexico:

- Subsection A: Adds a six-month political party registration stability requirement for non-student regents

- Subsection B: Requires the Governor to nominate non-student regents from a list of names provided by a nominating committee for each institution, as provided by law, with appointment subject to Senate consent.
- Subsection C: Revises student regent selection by requiring appointment from a list provided by the institution's elected student governing body (replacing the president-provided list and removing prior transitional language).
- Subsection D: Applies the nominating committee process to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents and adds the same six-month political party stability requirement for non-student UNM regents.
- Subsection D (student regent provision): Revises the UNM student regent selection to require appointment from a list provided by an elected student governing body.
- Subsection F (new): Establishes that the Legislature shall provide for nominating committees for each institution enumerated in Article 12, Section 11, with political party composition limits and a party registration stability requirement for committee members.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED's) analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HJR1 does not provide an appropriation. If the amendment goes to voters, there may be election-related costs for the general election or a special election, and the amendment would require the creation and operation of nominating committees, which could create administrative costs for HEIs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The six-month political party registration stability requirement may narrow the pool of otherwise qualified candidates eligible for appointment to boards of regents. Individuals may change party registration for a range of reasons, including relocation, administrative corrections, or changes in personal political affiliation. By further limiting eligibility, the requirement may also reduce the likelihood that appointees reflect a range of lived experiences and backgrounds, which could weaken alignment between governing boards and the broad student populations served by New Mexico institutions, including Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other access-focused campuses. In addition, the requirement may introduce additional administrative steps in the appointment process related to the verification of voter registration history and timing prior to appointment.

Implementation of the proposed nominating committee process would require further statutory development. The amendment specifies that the nominating committees will be established “as provided by law” and does not detail committee composition, selection processes, transparency requirements, or administrative support.

Administrative impacts would depend on subsequent legislation, including whether responsibility for convening, staffing, or supporting the committees is assigned to a state agency or the affected institutions.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HJR1 may result in administrative responsibilities for HEIs, particularly related to student regent appointments, as HEIs would need to coordinate with their elected student governing bodies to facilitate the submission of student nominee lists for gubernatorial appointment.

To the extent that the nominating committee structure and procedures require institutional participation, additional administrative effort could be required at the institutional level. The magnitude of these impacts would depend on statutory implementation and any associated reporting, documentation, or coordination requirements.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

There is limited evidence to demonstrate that nominating commissions inherently produce stronger nominees or improved institutional governance outcomes compared to the current constitutional appointment structure. As a result, the proposed change may introduce additional procedural steps without a clear indication that it would improve board performance or appointment quality.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HJR1 were not enacted, no changes would be made to Article 12, Section 13 of the Constitution of New Mexico, and the existing nomination and appointment processes for regents would remain in effect.

AMENDMENTS

N/A