LFC Requester:	Klundt, Kelly

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to **billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov**
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Date Prepared: 1/26/2026
Bill Number: HJR 5

Check all that apply:
Original x_ Correction __
Amendment __ Substitute __

Sponsor: Cristina Parajon
Angelica Rubio

Agency Name and Code Number: Secretary of State - 370

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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

Synopsis:

HJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment question be included in the general election occurring in 2028. The question asks voters to approve or reject an amendment to Article 4, Section 10 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow legislative compensation that is limited to the median household income for New Mexico; to require legislative compensation to be reduced if the median household income for New Mexico falls; to allow legislative compensation to be increased only if the median household income for New Mexico rises; and to provide for delayed implementation. The proposed compensation is in addition to the per diem expense and mileage rate currently provided in Article IV, Section 10.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

If the bill passes, the constitutional amendment might be decided by the voters in the 2028 general election which is in FY29. For the purposes of determining the costs involved, the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) wishes to inform legislators that, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 1-16-4, and Article 19 Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution, the SOS is required to publish the ballot question for each proposed constitutional amendment, in both Spanish and English.

The SOS is constitutionally required to publish the ballot question of each proposed constitutional amendment once a week for four consecutive weeks preceding the election in one newspaper in every county in the state. The cost will vary on the length of the ballot question. In 2024, the SOS published four ballot questions for proposed constitutional amendments at a cost of approximately $140,950.

The SOS also produces a general election voter guide that includes information about proposed constitutional amendments and provides it to voters at polling locations. The cost of producing the voter guide will change depending upon the number and length of the constitutional amendments passed and the number of registered voters. However, as a reference, the 2024 voter guide cost approximately $52,000 from GSD State Printing.

The number of constitutional amendments that pass may also impact the page size of the ballot, or if the ballot size is caused to become greater than one page, front and back, which will increase the cost of producing the ballots for the general election. In addition to the cost of the ballot, there may be time added to the voting process, which would require additional ballot printing systems to ensure a smooth and efficient voting process within the bounds of national best practices.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HJR 5 requires that the proposed amendment "shall be submitted to the people for their approval at the 2028 general election." Establishing this as the election for which the ballot question would be considered by voters may violate the Constitution of New Mexico. Section 1 of Article XIX states, "Amendments approved by the legislature shall be voted upon at the next regular election held after the adjournment of that legislature or at a special election to be held not less than six months after the adjournment of that legislature, at such time and in such manner as the legislature may by law provide." The next regular election is on November 3, 2026.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Secretary of State's Office will continue to administer elections in compliance with state and federal laws.

AMENDMENTS