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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Roybal Caballero **LAST UPDATED** _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/25
BILL House Joint
SHORT TITLE Prohibit Slavery, CA **NUMBER** Resolution 15
ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Election Costs	No fiscal impact	No fiscal impact	\$35.0 to \$50.0	\$35.0 to \$50.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

Agency Declined to Respond
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Joint Resolution 15

House Joint Resolution 15 amends Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution of New Mexico by adding language that would prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in any form.

The joint resolution provides the amendment be put before the voters at the next general election (November 2026) or a special election called for the purpose of considering the amendment. The amendment would only be effective if approved by voters.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Under Section 1-16-4 NMSA 1978 and the New Mexico Constitution, the Secretary of State (SOS) is required to print samples of the text of each constitutional amendment in both Spanish and English in an amount equal to 10 percent of the registered voters in the state. SOS is required to publish the samples once a week for four weeks preceding the election in newspapers in every county in the state. Further, the number of constitutional amendments on the ballot may impact the ballot page size or cause the ballot to be more than one page, also increasing costs. The estimated cost per constitutional amendment is \$35 thousand to \$50 thousand, depending on the size and number of ballots and if additional ballot stations are needed.

Should this proposed constitutional amendment be approved by voters, there would be no further costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) provides the following:

There is currently no language in the New Mexico Constitution pertaining to slavery. Of course, the ban on slavery in the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution applies to New Mexico. However, the Thirteenth Amendment contains an exception, allowing slavery “as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.” The proposed amendment would eliminate this loophole within the jurisdiction of the State of New Mexico. A number of other states have enacted similar amendments to their constitutions.

FC/r/SL2