

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Egolf ORIGINAL DATE 2/24/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HR 4
SHORT TITLE Prohibit Firearms in the House SB _____
ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Resolution 4 proposes to change house rules to prohibit persons from carrying firearms into the house chamber, galleries, lounge, hallways, or committee rooms.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Depending on how the proposed change would be enforced there may be costs associated with installing metal detectors or adding members to the roundhouse security team.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DPS stated that if checkpoints are required to enforce this law full time security personnel may be required to man the checkpoints. An additional consideration should be that, with massive amounts of people showing up when particular issues are being heard, considerable waits at any security checkpoints would become the norm. In the absence of security checkpoints, the law would be mostly unenforceable, except with respect to the few individuals who would seek to enter the capitol building while carrying their firearm out in the open. If a person is carrying a concealed firearm (whether they have a permit or not) and his/her concealment is effective, no

House Resolution 4 – Page 2

one would be able to tell that the person is carrying a firearm and is in violation of this resolution.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Rhode Island, and New Mexico are the only states without prohibitions on firearms in state houses. Many states prohibit carrying weapons into meetings where any governing body is present including into state houses. For example, the prohibition for concealed carry license holders in Texas looks like this:

A license holder commits an offense if the license holder intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries a handgun under the authority of Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, regardless of whether the handgun is concealed, at any meeting of a governmental entity.

EC/je