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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/8/19

SPONSOR Cervantes LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE 42-Day Legislative Sessions, CA SJR 14

ANALYST Daly

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		(\$530.0) Average	(\$530.0) Average	(\$1,060.0) Average	Recurring	General Fund*
			\$3.4	\$3.4	Nonrecurring	Election Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*Funded in House Bill 1

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Joint Resolution

Senate Joint Resolution 14 (SJR 14) proposes to amend the state constitution to provide for regular 42 day legislative sessions every year. It removes the restrictions on bills that may be considered during sessions in even-numbered years. It authorizes veto-override bills in every regular session of the legislature convening in even-numbered years, but not from a different biennial legislature. The resolution is to be submitted for approval by the people of the state in the next general election (November 2020) or any special election called for that purpose.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The numbers reflected in the first row of the operating budget impact table are based on the average of the 2018 (short) and 2019 (long) sessions, reduced by 7 percent (representing the approximate reduction in number of days in each session as proposed in SJR 14).

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Additionally, the SOS is constitutionally required to publish the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment once a week for four weeks preceding the election in one newspaper in every county in the state. In 2018, the SOS spent \$16,200 for the required newspaper publications; however, the cost is dependent upon the number and length of the constitutional amendments proposed. For planning purposes, SOS advises \$21.13 per word be used to represent the costs realized in the 2018 general election to estimate the cost of publishing each constitutional amendment. The numbers in the second row of the operating budget impact table reflect that publishing cost for SJR 14.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Because the restriction on bills to be considered during an even-numbered year is removed, it is anticipated that more bills will be filed during those sessions, as well as an increase in bills due to 12 additional days in each of those sessions. Additionally, because the days in a session convening during odd-numbered years will be fewer, more bills will die (with action postponed indefinitely (API)).

MD/sb