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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR McQueen **LAST UPDATED** _____
ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/2025
BILL
SHORT TITLE No Bill Intro Deadline **NUMBER** House Bill 256
ANALYST Leger

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Legislative Branch	No fiscal impact	\$30.0 to \$70.0	\$20.0 to \$60.0	\$20.0 to \$70.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Concurrent Resolution 1 and House Joint Memorial 2

Sources of Information

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 256

House Bill 256 (HB256) amends 2-6-1 NMSA 1978 to remove the timeframe for introduction of legislation. Currently, a bill cannot be introduced subsequent to the 30th legislative day in odd-year sessions and subsequent to the 15th legislative day in even-year sessions.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

With no timeframe for introduction and no limit on the number of bills introduced, the full-time legislative agencies responsible for researching and drafting legislation, as well as writing fiscal impact reports, may require additional staff to meet the demand of bill drafting and analysis for the full 30 or 60 days of a legislative session. A review of contracts listed on the legislative website shows multiple contracts that range from \$10 thousand to \$25 thousand for the 2025 legislative session (60-day session) for legislation research and drafting and writing of fiscal impact reports. Expenses will vary from 30-day session to 60-day session.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The elimination of a bill introduction timeframe may limit the number of public peace, health, safety and welfare bills (emergency bills or once referred to as dummy bills) introduced on the last day of bill introduction. In the 2024 session, 32 legislative members introduced 71 “emergency bills” between the two chambers. Of the emergency bills introduced, five bills were substituted for new legislation; however, none of the bills passed both chambers.

RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to House Concurrent Resolution 1 (HCR1), which amends the joint rules of the House and Senate to limit the number of bills a member can introduce or sponsor to five bills in a regular legislative session.

This bill also relates House Joint Memorial 2, which requests that the Legislative Council convene a task force to study combining standing and interim committees into committees that function during the legislative session and the interim.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The passage of HB256 in combination with adoption of HCR1 could increase the efficiency of the legislative process. Allowing a maximum of 560 bills to be introduced over 30 and 60 days instead of 15 and 30 days provides additional time to draft and analyze legislation. However, this may also limit the amount of time it takes for committee and chamber action on bills introduced late in the session.

There is no Joint House or Senate Rule of the Legislature outlining how bills are prioritized for committee hearings or a specific timeframe for public notice of bills scheduled for committee hearings. According to the Open Meetings Act, reasonable notice shall be given to the public.

JL/hj/SL2