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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Romero	DATE TYPED:	02/04/00	HB	
SHORT TITLE:	Candidates Elected By Majority Vote, CA			SB	SJR 12
				ANALYST:	Woodlee

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY00	FY01	FY00	FY01		
		See Narrative	\$ 17.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HJR 2, HJR 4, SJR 1, SJR 3

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Secretary of State

## **SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 12 proposes to amend Articles 5 and 7 of the constitution of New Mexico to require that candidates for office be elected by a majority vote. Also, SJR 12 requires the use of an instant run-off voting system if no candidate receives a majority vote. In addition, the joint resolution authorizes the use of run-off elections or plurality elections in municipalities.

### Significant Issues

Under current statute, the county clerks purchase electronic voting machines that meet Federal Election Commission standards and are approved by the Secretary of State. There are only 8 of the state's 3,115 voting machines that may be capable of conducting the necessary tabulations required for instant run-off voting. According to the Secretary of State, if voting machines that cannot electronically redistribute votes are used, then canvassing would be an extremely difficult task and there would be extreme delays in the election results.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill calls for a constitutional amendment. This creates a \$17.0 fiscal impact to the general fund to advertise and publish constitutional amendments. In addition, the agency indicates that instant run-off voting machines are not in New Mexico. The counties would have to purchase new machines, which range from \$0.2 to \$1.5 per machine. In addition, software costs range between \$100.0 and \$175.0 per county, according to Sequoia Pacific Voting Equipment Inc.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

As stated above, if an instant run-off system is implemented without new voting machines, then there would be an extreme negative administrative impact on the office of the Secretary of State because the redistribution of votes would have to be done manually.

**CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to HJR 2, HJR 4, SJR 1, and SJR 3. All these resolutions call for the allowance of run-off elections statewide or in municipalities.

MW/gm