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would rise astronomically, perhaps another \$200,000. Total cost of this legislation might therefore approach \$1,800,000.

Both the AOC and the PDD report that the sanction of life imprisonment without possibility of parole is so severe that many accused persons may invoke their right to trial and their right to a jury. These additional trials will result in additional costs which cannot be quantified for courtroom staff, judges, jury, and other fees.

The judicial system will spend \$400 for statewide update, distribution, and documentation of statutory changes. Any additional fiscal impact on the judiciary would be proportional to the enforcement of this law and commenced prosecutions. New laws, amendments to existing laws, and new hearings have the potential to increase caseloads in the courts, thus requiring additional resources to handle the increase.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Repeal § 31-18-25 (A), which reads, "The life sentence shall be subject to parole pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-21-10."

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

The bill does not address or specifically exempt the provisions of the Medical or Geriatric Parole Act, NMSA 1978, § 31-21-25.1 (1994). What is the bill's intent regarding these sections?

FAR/lrs:ar