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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/11/09

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJR 14

SHORT TITLE 6-Day General Election, CA SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

Secretary of State (SOS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Resolution 14 proposes to amend Article 20, Section 6 of the New Mexico constitution to extend the general election to last six days. Currently, Election Day is on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This resolution proposes that it start on the Thursday before the first Tuesday and end on Tuesday.

### ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Because the AGO provides counsel to the Secretary of State, having the polls open on Saturday and Sunday will result in additional staffing responsibilities.

### TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Attorney General's Office explains that several revisions to existing law to conform with the passage of HJR 14 would need to occur. As example, Section 1-12-1, NMSA 1978, requires that polls be open for 12 hours on Election Day. Sections 1-6-5.6 and 1-6-5.7, NMSA 1978 already allow for early in-person voting for two weeks prior to the date of general elections, and subsection 5.7 sets out the number of locations and hours during which such voting can occur.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

It may be very challenging for county clerks to recruit poll workers for six 12-hour days. Approximately 60 percent of poll workers are over the age of 60. Counties are also responsible for compensating precinct officials and extending the general election may have an impact on county budgets.

EO/mt