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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ingle ORIGINAL DATE 3/5/09
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Voter Identification, CA SJR 17
ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB690 and HB591

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
County Clerks Affiliate (CCA)

No Responses Received From
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 17 proposes an amendment to Article 7, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution that requiring in person voters to present a government issues ID card or document containing the voter's photo.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The County Clerks Affiliate comment related to SB690 regarding voter ID, is also relevant to SJR17 in that voter ID might cause a possible obstacle in the voting process.

In a policy brief issued by the non-profit organization Project Vote, it states that voter identification requirements, while increasingly popular in state legislatures around the country, are a solution without a problem. There is virtually no evidence that voters engage in voter impersonation with any frequency. Secondly, between 6% and 10% of voting-age Americans today do not have driver's licenses or state-issued non-driver's photo ID. Those without photo

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ID are disproportionately the elderly, students, women, people with disabilities, low income people and people of color.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to House Bill 591, which restricts the identification required for voter registration and voting, eliminating the current allowance of bills, bank statements, government checks/identification and Indian Nation identification. The bill provides that Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) will create a photo identification free of charge for individuals without driver's license so long as the individual presents any of the following: social security card, state public assistance card or a utility bill with the individuals name and address.

Relates to Senate Bill 690, which requires a form of photo identification for in-person voting, either on Election Day or at early voting sites. The bill provides that county clerks shall issue free photo-ID cards to registrants who produce the types of non-photo ID evidence that currently suffice for in-person voting. The bill further provides that those who cannot produce acceptable photo- ID on Election Day may vote a provisional ballot which will be counted only if the individual produces acceptable photo-ID to the clerk within 3 days of the close of the polls; they were registered to vote in the election and they did not vote elsewhere.

ALTERNATIVES

The County Clerks Affiliate recommends eliminating all the language in this section that is trumped by the US Constitution and federal law. For example, no one has to be 21 to vote anymore; or reside in NM for 12 months; or in the county for 90 days; or in the precinct for 30 days.

EO/mc