

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

01/25/13
ORIGINAL DATE 02/12/13

SPONSOR Smith/Ivey-Soto **LAST UPDATED** 03/11/13 **HJR** 2/aHJC/aSRC

SHORT TITLE School Election Timing, CA **SB** _____

ANALYST Chabot

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$100.0		\$100.0		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Attorney General’s Office (AGO)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment to House Joint Resolution 2 strikes House Judiciary amendment 1 returning the resolution to the original title.

Synopsis of HJC Amendment

The House Judiciary Committee amendment to House Joint Resolution 2 changes the bill title to read “A Joint Resolution Proposing to Amend Article 7, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to Remove Reference to Separate School Elections.” However, the body of the memorial still states school elections shall be held at different times from partisan elections which was in the original title.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Resolution 2 would amend Article 7, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution to require all school elections be held at different times from partisan elections. The resolution is to be submitted for vote at the next general election or any statewide special election schedule prior

to the next general election.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No funding is provided in this resolution; however, the SOS, in previous analyses, estimates costs at \$100.0 associated with including this item on the ballot of the next statewide election.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The AGO staff analysis, which is neither a formal Attorney General’s Opinion nor an Attorney General’s Advisory Opinion Letter, finds the joint resolution would “relax” existing restrictions governing the timing of school board elections which currently must be held at different times from *other* elections. This resolution would allow school board elections to be held concurrently with other non-partisan elections.

The PED adds there could be cost savings to school districts if school board elections are combined with other non-partisan elections. However, since this would be determined on a district by district basis, it is not possible to estimate the extent of any savings.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

If school board elections are held with other non-partisan elections, would ballots be combined or voted on separately?

GAC/svb:blm