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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Cook ORIGINAL DATE 3/2/15
LAST UPDATED 3/11/15 HB 501/aHJC
SHORT TITLE Questions with Force of Law on Ballot SB _____
ANALYST Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJC Amendment

The House Judiciary Committee amendment to House Bill 50 requires that ballot questions be sent to the SOS fifty-six days prior to the election and clarifies that no question that is nonbinding or merely advisory in nature shall appear on the ballot.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 501 prohibits any nonbinding questions from being included on election ballots.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Because advisory questions have already been allowed on the ballot, and any related costs incurred, enactment of HB 403 may create slight cost savings related to ballot purchasing.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2014, Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties included advisory questions on their ballots. The questions were rejected by the SOS because they were nonbinding. In September, the Supreme Court ruled that the SOS could not unilaterally remove questions from the county side of the ballot. HB 403 provides a specific prohibition from including these nonbinding questions on the ballot.

CJ/bb/je