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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/15

SPONSOR Soules **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Bilingual Interpretation Services **SCR** 1

ANALYST Leger

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total			\$4.0-\$11.0	\$4.0-\$11.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 1

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Resolution

Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 1 proposes Legislative Joint Rule 13-1 to provide interpretation services for Legislative sessions and standing committee meetings.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SCR 1 indicates the joint rule is subject to the availability of funds. Analysis conducted indicates the cost of bilingual interpretive services among state agencies varies. A part-time employee may cost nearly \$4 thousand whereas the cost of a contractual employee is closer to \$11 thousand for a 30-day session. Additional costs may include mileage and per diem and supplies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Judicial Branch currently operates a Court Interpreter Program that can serve as a resource for the Legislative Branch if SCR 1 is approved by 2/3 of the membership of each house.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Beginning with the Second Session of the Fifty-Second Legislature (30-day) and subject to the availability of funds, Spanish language interpretation services shall be available to members of the public at each session of the House and Senate and the standing committees of each body. Services would be provided upon a reasonably advanced request to the House and Senate Chief Clerks. It would be the responsibility of the Chief Clerks to ensure the interpreters meet current standards of qualification to interpret effectively. For the interpreters that provide such service, they shall render a complete and accurate interpretation, remain impartial and refrain from acting outside the role of an interpreter.

JLL/bb