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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/2017

SPONSOR Rubio LAST UPDATED HJM 16

SHORT TITLE Study NM Legislative Process SB

ANALYST Leger

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	*see fiscal implications			*see fiscal implications	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Joint Memorial

House Joint Memorial 16 requests the Legislative Council Service (LCS) to convene a task force to review and study the legislative process in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Joint Memorial 16 does not include an appropriation to supplement costs; therefore, any costs would be absorbed by the legislature.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HJM 16 reiterates the current structure of the legislature and states the legislature constantly seeks ways to improve policies that affect all aspects of state government and continued improvements to help conduct its work and perform its duties more effectively.

In 2002, LCS conducted a study similar to HJM 16, which resulted in a more comprehensive study that began in October 2006 and concluded in 2007. In December of 2007, the Legislative Council was briefed on the report. The goal of the 2007 task force was to help the legislature become more deliberative, effective, and accessible to the public. Members consisted of House and Senate members, legislative staff, and members of the general public. Recommendations were structured into three groups: 1) session workload and schedule, 2) interim structure, and 3) relations with the executive and the public.

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The full report from 2007 is available to the public on the legislatures website. [https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/studies_research_reports/legislative%20structure%20and%20process%20study%20task%20force%20final%20report%20\(2007%20interim\).pdf](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/studies_research_reports/legislative%20structure%20and%20process%20study%20task%20force%20final%20report%20(2007%20interim).pdf)

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Table 1. is derived from minutes of the 2007 report provided by New Mexico First that ties a few proposed reforms to prior studies of the legislative process.

Table 1.

Reduce amount of legislation introduced and considered; limit introductions to a manageable number.	Legislative Reform Study Committee (1998)
Consolidate the function of interim committees thus reducing their size and number and avoiding duplication.	Committee Process Study Committee (2002)
Establish staggered terms.	Constitutional Revision Committee (1995)
Establish two 60-day sessions.	Constitutional Convention (1969), NM First Town Hall on the Structure of Government in NM (1994)

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- Is the report from 2007 still adequate?
- Why are some reforms more successful than others?
- Why have select reforms been continually rejected?

JLL/jle/sb