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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Montoya ORIGINAL DATE 2/20/17
LAST UPDATED _____ HJR 9

SHORT TITLE State Legislator Term Limits & Elections, CA SB _____

ANALYST Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total			\$50.0- \$100.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

HJR9 relates to House Joint Resolution 3, Independent Redistricting Commission, CA

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Resolution

House Joint Resolution 9 (HJR9) proposes to amend Article 4, Section 4 of the Constitution of New Mexico to change the terms of service for state representatives from two years to four years similar to state senators, to provide for elections of state representatives to coincide with gubernatorial elections, and to limit state legislators to no more than 16 years of elected office. The four year terms would begin with the general election of 2022.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 1-16-13 NMSA 1978 requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to print the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment, in both Spanish and English, in an amount equal to 10 percent of the registered voters in the state. The SOS is also constitutionally required to publish the full text of each proposed constitutional amendment once a week for four weeks preceding the election in newspapers in every county in the state. LFC staff estimate each constitutional amendment may cost from fifty thousand dollars to one hundred thousand dollars (\$50,000-\$100,000) in printing and advertising costs based on 2016 actual expenditures.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Attorney General’s Office (AGO) indicates the bill would replace the staggered terms for elected officials such that every member of the Legislature would have to be elected on the same ballot.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State’s Office (SOS) notes it would be required to change the term limit settings in the election management system which would have little administrative impact.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Attorney General’s Office (AGO) reports the bill is unclear whether current serving members of the Legislature would count their past service towards the 16 year cap for service provided for in the bill, or if every member would be able to hold office for up to 16 years starting and counting only after 2022.

RAE/jle/sb