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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Maestas/Ely ORIGINAL DATE 2/07/18
 LAST UPDATED 2/15/18 HJM 19/aSRC

SHORT TITLE Election Reform Task Force SB _____

ANALYST Daly

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications			Nonrecurring	Legislative Council Service Funds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)
 Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendments

The Senate Rules Committee amendments to House Joint Memorial 19:

1. On page 1, line 14 and on page 1, line 16, replace the word “democracy” with “republic” and with “government”; and
2. Change the membership of the task force which is the focus of the memorial to be composed of : the number of legislators is increased from six to eight, with no more than four members from the same party; maintain six members of the public (previously referred to as “non-legislative”), at least one-half of whom must be unaffiliated or registered with the libertarian or with a minor party; and add two county clerks and one municipal clerk.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Memorial 19 requests that the legislative council convene an interim task force to study election reform and to provide a report containing its recommendations to the 2019

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legislature. Items to be studied by the task force include open primaries, nonpartisan redistricting, ranked choice voting, fair ballot access, public financing of campaigns, automatic voter registration, fusion voting, proportional representation, and other reforms.

The task force is to be composed of thirteen members: six legislative members, divided equally between the House of Representatives and the Senate, and no more than three members from the same party; six members of the public; and the secretary of state as a voting member. At least three of the public members must be individuals who are unaffiliated with a party or who are registered with a minor party. The task force members be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate and the minority leadership of both chambers to ensure party affiliation equity.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Legislative members of the task force are entitled to per diem, which as of March 1, 2018, is \$183. They are also entitled to mileage, which is currently 54.4 cents per mile. HJM 19 does not make provision for per diem or mileage for the public members. Additionally, there likely will be costs incurred by LCS, which may be minimal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A cursory review of proposed legislation in the 2017 and 2018 sessions indicates at least 15 bills on topic related to elections, only one of which has been enacted (HB 98 in the 2017 session). A listing of those bills is provided in Attachment 1.

MD/al