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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/24/18

SPONSOR Candelaria LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Electronic Submission of Public Comment SCR 1

ANALYST Amacher

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Attorney General's Office (NMAG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Concurrent Resolution

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 (SCR 1) proposes a joint rule to establish a system to allow electronic transmission submission and storage of public comments for a standing committee during a legislative session.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal impact and estimated additional operating budget impact is indeterminate at this time.

SCR 1 tasks the Legislative Council Services (LCS) to develop and maintain a system by which members of the public may submit written comments to a standing committee via electronic transmission on specific pieces of legislation under consideration by the standing committee during a legislative session.

It is possible this project could be done in conjunction with other on-going projects.

As previously reported on similar legislation, during the legislative session it is common practice for members of the general public, interest groups, etc. to provide legislators with letters, e-mails, telephone calls, and pamphlets on diverse subject matters. The system could experience

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hundreds if not thousands of comments per day. To ensure a system is maintained, and to meet the storage requirements set forth (thirty days after the end of the relevant session), IT may have to dedicate a staff member to oversee the system, troubleshoot issues, or deal with other issues listed in administrative implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The approval by two-thirds of the membership of each house is required for adoption, amendment or repeal of joint rule for this concurrent resolution.

Effective with the fifty-fourth legislature, the Legislative Council Service shall develop a system by which the public may submit written comments to a standing committee via electronic transmission on specific pieces of legislation under consideration by the standing committee during a legislative session. The chief clerks shall store the comments for 30 days after the relevant session.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Although the system would have the capabilities to serve as a central point for public comment, there is no way to eliminate duplicative efforts separately submitted to Legislators through letters, e-mail, or telephone calls.

It is worth evaluating security efforts to eliminate spam from being submitted to the portal. Consideration should also be given to include a filter program to ensure offensive material is not posted online or made available to the general public.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

SCR 1 states that comments may be submitted on “specific pieces of legislation under consideration by the standing committee”. It is unclear who is responsible for identifying the specific pieces of legislation in which the system may be used if not open to all pieces of legislation under consideration by a standing committee.

JMA/sb/jle