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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Tallman ORIGINAL DATE 2/04/2020
LAST UPDATED 2/20/2020 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Recommendations for Open Primary Elections SM 12/aSRC

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$75.0			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Secretary of State (SoS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment strikes the following two paragraphs:

WHEREAS, semi-open primaries allow non-affiliated voters to participate exclusively in one primary and increase the responsiveness of primary candidates to their communities; and

WHEREAS, denying participation in primary elections is a form of disenfranchisement;

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Memorial 12 requests the SoS to study and provide recommendations on instituting open primary elections to the appropriate interim legislative committee before November 1, 2020.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The SoS would need to conduct the study with existing staff and resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SoS reported it was administering three elections this year (the Municipal Officer Election in

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March, Primary Election in June, and General Election in November), does not have staff or resources available, and would need additional funding for research analysts to conduct the study.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HJR3 calls for a constitutional amendment to allow for Open Primaries.

AHO/sb