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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date 2025-01-30

Bill No: SJR7

Sponsor: Pope, Harold
Short REGENT NOMINATING
Title: COMMITTEES, CA

Agency Name
and Code NMHED
Number: _____
Person Writing Weber, Jody
Phone: 6179089730 Email jody.weber@hed.nm.g

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Joint Resolution (SJR7) Amends Art. 12, Sec. 13, of the Constitution to change the method for nominating non-student board of regent members of state educational institutions. Requires the Governor to make the selection from a list of names submitted by a nominating committee to be established by statute. SJR7 is very similar to 2024 SJR2; 2021 SRJ7; 2020 SJR3; 2019 SJR6; 2018 SJR1; 2017 SJR9.

- The current version of this proposed amendment does not specify how many names the committee must provide.
- Current process of selecting student regents remains intact; the Governor selects from a list provided by the institution's president.
- The measure contains cleanup language regarding appointment of a student regent for Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) and a prior amendment adding members to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents.
- If passed by both chambers, the amendment goes before voters at the next general election, or any special election called for that purpose prior to that date.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) analysis of this bill focuses on the higher education implications of the proposed legislation. Additional insight may be obtained from other agencies' analyses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SJR7 may have fiscal implications if the Legislature were to determine through legislation that a nominating committee should receive compensation and/or reimbursement. SJR7 may have a fiscal impact on the Legislature, higher education institutions (HEIs), or state agencies depending upon how the Legislature chooses to structure and staff nominating committees.

There will be election costs to include voting on the resolution in the next general election.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SJR7 would require the New Mexico Governor to nominate non-student Board of Regents members from a list provided by a nominating committee established by law. SJR7 states that the New Mexico Legislature would determine the appointment, terms, powers, and duties of the nominating committees. No more than 50 percent (50%) of the nominating committee shall be members of the same political party.

While SJR7 shifts the authority to nominate Board of Regents members from the Executive branch to a nominating committee established by the Legislative branch, SJR7 still preserves the authority of the Governor to select nominees and, with the consent of the Senate, appoint Board of Regents members.

SJR7 calls for its proposed amendment to be submitted to the people of New Mexico for approval or rejection at the next general election or at a special election.

If SJR7 were passed, the work of the nominating committee(s) would not begin until the proposed resolution is submitted and approved by vote of the electorate.

The current version of this proposed amendment does not specify how many names the committee must provide.

The amendment to the Constitution proposed by SJR7 will require all state educational institutions enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 to have regents appointed via nominating committee process. The institutions are:

- University of New Mexico (UNM)
- New Mexico State University (NMSU)
- New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)
- Western New Mexico University (WNMU)
- Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT)
- New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI)
- New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NMSBVI)
- New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD)
- Northern New Mexico College (NNMC)

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SJR7 necessitates the Legislature to pass legislation regarding the appointment, terms, powers, and duties of a nominating committee.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Very similar to 2024 SJR2; 2021 SRJ7; 2020 SJR3; 2019 SJR6; 2018 SJR1; 2017 SJR9

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Article 12, Section 13 of the New Mexico Constitution will be unchanged. The authority to nominate Board of Regent members will remain with the Governor.

AMENDMENTS

N/A