

**STATE CONDITIONAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-1054 **Date:** April 24, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Lundeen; Dore **Bill Status:** House Business, Affairs & Labor
 Sen. Lundberg **Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: MODIFY OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-19
State Revenue				
State Expenditures			Potential workload reduction; legislator travel and per diem reduction. See State Expenditures section.	
General Fund			(\$529,150)	(\$264,100)
FTE Position Change				
Appropriation Required: None.				

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. Parenthesis indicate a reduction.

Summary of Legislation

This concurrent resolution refers a ballot question to voters changing the operations of the state legislature. The referred measure will appear on the ballot at the election to be held November 8, 2016. If approved by voters, the resolution:

- decreases the length of regular sessions of the state legislature from 120 days each year to 90 days in odd-numbered years, and to 60 days in even-numbered years;
- implements a biennial state budget cycle beginning with FY 2017-18;
- limits the number of bills that a legislator may introduce to 2 bills in any regular legislative session, excluding bills for appropriations and bills recommended by legislative committees;
- limits the number of resolutions that a legislator may introduce to 2 resolutions in the first (odd year) legislative session and prohibits introduction of any resolutions in the second (even year) legislative session; and
- allows both houses of the legislature to create a restrictive process to authorize an exemption from the specified bill and resolution limits.

Background

The constitution currently requires that the state legislature convene no later than the second Wednesday of January. Legislative sessions may not exceed 120 days. Rules established by the Senate and the House of Representatives generally limit the number of bills that a legislator may introduce to 5 bills in any legislative session, with some exceptions.

State Expenditures

If approved by voters, the concurrent resolution reduces workload for the legislative and executive branch of state government, and increases election costs for local and state government. All fiscal impacts are conditional, dependant on the resolution's approval by voters at the November 2016 election.

Legislative Branch. The state legislature maintains a permanent staff of non-partisan employees, including economists, policy analysts, budget analysts, auditors, attorneys, computer programmers, administrative staff, and staff for the two houses of the legislature, spread across six separate service agencies. The resolution both shortens the length of the legislative session and reduces the total number of bills that may be introduced by any single legislator for consideration. Service agency workload is anticipated to decrease by an amount equivalent to up to five FTE; however, the actual reduction in workload and the specific service agencies impacted cannot be known in advance.

To the extent that the state legislature considers fewer bills each year, drafting, analysis, and committee work are all reduced simultaneously; however there is not a direct correlation between the number of bills considered and the workload of each service agency. For example, the Office of Legislative Legal Services provides many services in addition to drafting bills for members. As such, a reduction in the number of bills does not automatically translate to a reduced workload for that agency.

Adjustments to appropriations for the legislative service agencies will not be necessary until the 2018 legislative session. At that time, the service agencies will make any necessary reductions through the biennial budget setting process established by the resolution.

Beginning with FY 2017-18, the reduced length of each legislative session reduces state expenditures for legislator travel and per diem. In even numbered years, travel and per diem expenses are reduced by about \$530,000. In odd numbered years, travel and per diem expenses are reduced by about \$264,000

Executive Branch. The resolution changes the timing and amount of workload for executive branch agencies. Similar to legislative service agencies, reducing the number of bills and the length of the session will reduce workload for the executive branch. Some agencies will respond to fewer requests for bill information related to the preparation of fiscal notes, monitor and respond to less legislation, or provide less testimony and expert assistance in the deliberation of bills. However, even though the total number of bills is reduced, the total number affecting any given agency may still be substantial in any given year. The resolution is not likely to require a reduction in budget staff in the agencies, although the timing and volume of workload will change with adoption of a biennial budget process.

Election expenditure impact (existing appropriations). The resolution includes a referred measure that will appear before voters at the November 2015 general election. Although no additional appropriation is required in this bill to cover election costs associated with this ballot measure, certain election costs to the state are appropriated as part of the regular budget process. First, state law requires that the state reimburse counties for costs incurred conducting a ballot measure election paid from the Department of State Cash Fund. Second, the text and title of the measure must be published in one legal newspaper per county and an analysis of the measure must be included in the Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book) mailed to all registered voter households prior to the election paid from the Ballot Analysis Revolving Fund. Table 1 below identifies the anticipated costs for a single statewide ballot measure election in 2015.

Cost Component	Amount
County Reimbursement for Statewide Ballot Measures	\$2,400,000
Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book) & Newspaper Publication	670,000
TOTAL	\$3,070,000

Effective Date

The concurrent resolution takes effect after the date of the official declaration of the vote by proclamation of the Governor, not later than 30 days after the votes have been canvassed.

State and Local Government Contacts

All Departments