

HF13 - 1E - "Gender Equality Constitutional Amendment"

Chief Author: **Mary Kunesh-Podein**
 Committee: **State Government Finance Division**
 Date Completed: **02/06/2019**
 Agency: **Secretary of State**

| State Fiscal Impact | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Expenditures | X | |
| Fee/Departmental Earnings | | X |
| Tax Revenue | | X |
| Information Technology | X | |
| Local Fiscal Impact | X | |

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

| State Cost (Savings) | Biennium | | | Biennium | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | Dollars in Thousands | FY2019 | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 |
| General Fund | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

| Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | FY2019 | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 |
| General Fund | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - |

Executive Budget Officer's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with MMB's Fiscal Note policies.

EBO Signature: Marianne Conboy Date: 2/6/2019 12:35:14 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

| State Cost (Savings) = 1-2 | | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|---|
| Dollars in Thousands | FY2019 | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 | |
| General Fund | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out* | | | | | | |
| General Fund | | | | | | |
| Expenditures | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| Absorbed Costs | - | - | (2) | - | - | - |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 2 - Revenues, Transfers In* | | | | | | |
| General Fund | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

Bill Description

HF 13-1E proposes a constitutional amendment to add language to the Minnesota Bill of Rights, specifically Article I, section 18, to provide that equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of gender.

Assumptions

Constitutional amendments are not part of the regular elections ballot and results structure, because they do not occur in every election cycle. When a constitutional amendment is placed on the ballot, several additional steps in the election process take place. The example ballot must be redesigned to accommodate the amendment. A title for the amendment also must be placed on the ballot. In addition, the question on the constitutional amendment must be included in the election reporting system, the election night reporting process, as well as the website of the Office, all of which require the time of Office employees. The Office estimates the staff time required to approximate \$2,000 in staff time costs.

The Office of the Secretary of State can absorb the \$2,000 in direct costs identified in this fiscal note.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Estimated Secretary of State programming costs for reporting votes cast for the proposed amendment, canvassing the results and preparing example ballots: \$2,000 (40 hours of staff time at approximately \$50 per hour).

\$2,000 (FY21)

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

None.

Local Fiscal Impact

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Estimated costs to county auditors of adding one proposed constitutional amendment to optical scan ballots: | \$69,000 |
| Estimated cost to county auditors for programming and counting votes cast on proposed constitutional amendment: | \$25,000 |
| Estimated cost to county auditors for printing and publishing: | \$8,000 |
| Total Estimated County Cost: | \$102,000 (FY21) |
| Total estimated cost of placing one proposed constitutional amendment on the state general election ballot in 2020: | \$104,000 (FY21) |

If several constitutional amendments are put on the ballot, local election officials may need to provide voters with a second ballot. The number of constitutional amendments that would require any specific jurisdiction to use a second ballot will vary depending upon the number of other races on the ballot. According to the vendor printing most of the ballots in the state, the average cost of printing a second ballot is 26 cents. If all counties had to print second ballots, this would mean printing an additional 3,213,648 ballots for an added cost of approximately **\$835,548**.

References/Sources

Bert Black

651-201-1326

I have reviewed the content of this fiscal note and believe it is a reasonable estimate of the expenditures and revenues associated with this proposed legislation.

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Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Juin Charnell

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