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[SJR 21](#) – Abortion, Constitutional Amendment (LSB2071SV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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### **Description**

[Senate Joint Resolution 21](#) proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution specifying that the Constitution of the State of Iowa does not secure or protect a right to an abortion or require the funding of abortion.

### **Background**

Iowa Code section [49A.1](#) and the Iowa Constitution require that when an amendment to the Constitution is first passed by the General Assembly, and has been referred to the next succeeding General Assembly, the State Commissioner of Elections (Secretary of State) is required to publish the proposed amendment in two newspapers of general circulation in each Iowa congressional district once each month for three consecutive months prior to the start of the next General Assembly.

Upon passage of the same amendment by the second General Assembly, the amendment is to be published in newspapers in all 99 counties once each month for three consecutive months immediately preceding the general election.

### **Assumptions**

- The average cost to publish an amendment in a single newspaper is \$600.
- Publication of the initial amendment would occur in eight newspapers (two in each congressional district) for a three-month period.
- Subsequent publication of the amendment would occur in 99 newspapers (one in each county) for a three-month period.

### **Fiscal Impact**

**Constitutional Amendment Publication Cost.** The estimated cost to publish a proposed Constitutional amendment passed by the General Assembly during the 2019 Legislative Session would be \$14,400 (8 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). The costs would be incurred in the fall of 2020 (FY 2021).

Assuming the proposed amendment is passed a second time during the 2021 Legislative Session, the estimated cost would be \$178,200 (99 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). The costs would be incurred in the fall of 2022 (FY 2023).

The above publication costs would be incurred by the Iowa Secretary of State's Office.

**Sources**

Legislative Services Agency  
Office of the Secretary of State

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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March 11, 2019

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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