



HJR 14 – Qualifications of Electors, Constitutional Amendment (LSB1813HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House Joint Resolution 14](#) amends Section 5 of Article II of the [Constitution of the State of Iowa](#) in order to automatically restore the right to vote to felons who have discharged their sentences. The section presently reads: “A person adjudged mentally incompetent to vote or a person convicted of any infamous crime shall not be entitled to the privilege of an elector.” [House Joint Resolution 14](#) strikes the words “infamous crime” and inserts the phrase “felony who has not discharged his or her sentence.”

Background

Under current practice, a person’s voter registration is canceled upon the person being convicted of a felony in the State of Iowa. Voting rights can be restored by making an application to the Governor’s Office and having the application approved by the Governor.

Assumptions

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

Fiscal Impact

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 fall 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 fall 2022 (FY 2023). These publication costs would be incurred by the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office.

Source

Office of the Secretary of State

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 19, 2019