



HJR 4 – Weapons, Right to Keep and Bear Arms (LSB1195HV)
Analyst: Christin Mechler (515.250.0458) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov
Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House Joint Resolution 4](#) proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution related to the right of the people to keep and bear arms, explicitly stating that this right shall not be infringed. The amendment states that the sovereign State of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right, on which any and all restrictions shall be subject to strict scrutiny.

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.

The 88th General Assembly passed [Senate Joint Resolution 18](#), the initial version of the proposed amendment, on March 13, 2019, and subsequently referred the amendment for the consideration of the 89th General Assembly. The initial amendment was published in eight newspapers (two in each congressional district) for a three-month period in the fall of 2020 (FY 2021).

Assumptions

- The average cost to publish an amendment in a single newspaper is \$600.
- Publication of the amendment will 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 was \$14,400 (8 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). These costs were 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

January 25, 2021

Doc ID 1,209,659

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.
