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[HJR 7](#) – Suffrage, Constitutional Amendment (LSB1213HV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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## **Description**

[House Joint Resolution 7](#) proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution reducing the voting age from 21 years of age to 18 years of age, except that a person who will be 18 years of age by the next general election is permitted to vote in a primary election.

## **Background**

The 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on July 1, 1971. The Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years of age for every election in the United States.

Iowa Code section [49A.1](#) and the Iowa Constitution require that when a proposed amendment to the Constitution has passed the General Assembly and has been referred to the next succeeding General Assembly, the General Assembly 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 succeeding General Assembly, Iowa Code section [49A.2](#) requires the amendment 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 a proposed constitutional 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 if the proposed amendment were passed by the 89th General Assembly.
- Subsequent publication of the amendment would occur monthly in 99 newspapers (one in each county) for a three-month period prior to the 2024 General Election if the amendment were passed by the 90th General Assembly.

## **Fiscal Impact**

**Constitutional Amendment Publication Cost.** The estimated cost to publish a proposed constitutional amendment passed by the General Assembly during the 2021 Legislative Session would be \$14,400 (8 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). The costs would be incurred in the fall of 2022 (FY 2023), prior to the convening of the 2023 Legislative Session.

Assuming the proposed amendment is passed a second time by the 90th General Assembly, the estimated cost would be \$178,200 (99 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). The costs would be incurred in the fall of 2024 (FY 2025).

These publication costs would be incurred by the Secretary of the Senate's Office and the Chief Clerk's Office in the House of Representatives and reimbursed 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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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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