



HJR 11 – Felon Voting, Constitutional Amendment (LSB1803HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House Joint Resolution 11](#) proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution that a person who is convicted of a felony is not entitled to the privileges of an elector until that person discharges the person’s sentence. This amendment would automatically restore the privileges of an elector to persons convicted of any felony who have discharged their sentences.

Background

Under current law, a person convicted of any infamous crime is not entitled to the privileges of an elector unless that person’s rights are restored by the Governor. “Infamous crime” means a felony as defined in Iowa Code section [701.7](#) or an offense classified as a felony under federal law.

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 89th General Assembly 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

March 1, 2021

Doc ID 1215310

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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