

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 3, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable Garnet Coleman, Chair, House Committee on County Affairs

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HJR95** by Gallego (Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the adoption of county home-rule charters.), **As Introduced**

**No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated**, other than the cost of publication.

The cost to the state for publication of the resolution is \$90,882.

The resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to authorize counties with a population of 5,000 or more, by majority vote of the qualified voters, to adopt a county home-rule charter. The proposed resolution would be placed on the ballot of the election to be held November 3, 2009.

The constitutional amendment would set forth the procedures for a county to follow to adopt a county home-rule charter and to assume home-rule powers, and specifies what those powers would be.

**Local Government Impact**

If the proposed amendment is approved by the voters and enacted, and a county chose to hold an election to obtain voter approval to adopt a home-rule charter, the county would incur costs associated with the election. According to information provided by the Texas Association of Counties (TAC), those costs could range from \$4,000 to \$8,000. TAC reports that if approved by the voters to adopt a home-rule charter, a county would also incur costs of approximately \$5,000 for legal review of the charter and approximately \$15,000 to \$35,000 in administrative costs. Costs would vary by county depending on the size of the county.

It is assumed that a county would seek to adopt a home-rule charter if doing so would be beneficial and if sufficient resources existed to cover costs of the election, legal review, and administration.

**Source Agencies:**

**LBB Staff:** JOB, DB