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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 13
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 13's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Grendell and Fraizer

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill modifies Ohio's Campaign Finance Law by expanding and clarifying the definition of a political contributing entity (PCE). This would likely result in increased campaign finance filings handled by the Secretary of State.
- The increased filings would likely result in some additional administrative costs for the Elections Division within the Secretary of State's Office, although the extent of those additional costs is uncertain. These costs are paid from Business Services Fund (Fund 5990) appropriation items 050630, Elections Support Supplement, and 050603, Business Services Operating Expenses.

Detailed Analysis

Overview

The bill modifies Ohio's Campaign Finance Law primarily by expanding and clarifying the definition of a political contributing entity (PCE). The bill essentially classifies any entity other than a campaign committee, political party, political action committee (PAC), or legislative campaign fund (LCF) as a PCE, and subjects those entities to the filing and disclosure requirements of a PCE under the Campaign Finance Law. The LSC bill analysis contains a table which describes common political entities and the impact of the bill related to the contribution and disclosure requirements of PCEs.¹ Overall, the changes in the bill would appear to increase the number of financial disclosures and filings by political entities. These increased filings would ultimately result in some administrative cost increases to the Ohio Secretary of State's Office.

¹ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=15672&format=pdf>.

Secretary of State and campaign finance filings

The bill would likely result in additional administrative costs to the Elections Division within the Secretary of State's Office because of the need to process increased campaign finance filings. In addition to receiving and processing these filings, the Secretary of State also provides a searchable database whereby individuals can search for various campaign finance filings from 2015 to the present.² The magnitude of the increase in filings and subsequent increase in administrative costs is unclear. Because the bill would not require any new procedures for these filings, the additional costs would appear to be minimal. The costs of the Elections Division are paid through a combination of funding, specifically through Business Services Fund (Fund 5990) appropriation item 050630, Election Support Supplement, which pays for the payroll costs of the Elections Division, and Fund 5990 appropriation item 050603, Business Services Operating Expenses, which would absorb any new information technology costs related to the bill.

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² <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/campaign-finance/search/>.