
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill expands the categories of political entities that are required or permitted to file their campaign finance statements electronically to include candidates for member of the State Board of Education, candidates for local office, and certain local political entities. If the total amount of contributions an entity receives or expenditures the entity makes during a reporting period is below the specified threshold, electronic filing is optional, and the entity may choose to file a paper statement. If the amount is above the threshold, electronic filing is mandatory. Finally, first-time filers are permitted to file electronically, but not mandated to do so. See the LSC Bill Analysis for a detailed breakdown of the entities discussed above, and the thresholds for mandatory electronic filing.

The bill requires a board of elections that receives an electronic campaign finance statement to transmit that statement to the Secretary of State within five business days of receiving it. Any addenda or amendments to such a statement must be transmitted to the Secretary of State no later than the close of business on the day of receipt. The bill also requires the Secretary of State to prescribe rules for the method of collecting and filing electronic campaign finance statements, and must make these statements available online to the public through the Internet in the same manner as other electronic statements.

Overall, the bill may result in some minimal administrative costs to the Secretary of State for prescribing rules as required by the bill and making these electronic statements available online. These costs would be paid from GRF appropriation item 050321, Operating Expenses. Boards of elections may experience some minor administrative costs for collecting and forwarding such statements, but those would be offset through administrative savings experienced through processing electronic campaign finance statements instead of paper versions of these materials.