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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 215
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 215's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate General Government

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Gavarone and McColley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) would incur costs to investigate and enforce the campaign finance prohibitions established in this bill. The Attorney General would also incur costs for prosecuting cases referred to that office by the ELC.
- The ELC may potentially offset these costs through any fines collected from the campaign finance violations established in the bill. The fine for each infraction is three times the amount involved or \$10,000, whichever is greater, and would be paid to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20).

Detailed Analysis

The bill modifies campaign finance law to prohibit contributions from foreign nationals used for influence in state or local ballot issues. These prohibitions and other related provisions are detailed in the LSC [bill analysis](#). The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) could incur costs to investigate and enforce the campaign finance prohibitions established under the bill. The magnitude of any such costs are uncertain and would presumably be in proportion to the frequency and complexity of potential campaign finance violations arising from the bill. The ELC may partially or fully offset such costs through fines collected as a result of these campaign finance violations. Much like any new investigative costs from the bill, any fine revenue collected is also uncertain, and will depend on the frequency and dollar amount of campaign finance violations. The fine for each infraction under this bill is three times the amount involved or \$10,000, whichever is greater. The fines would be deposited into to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20). Finally, the bill permits the Attorney General to prosecute certain violations referred to that office by the ELC. As with the ELC, the costs the Attorney General would incur for prosecuting these cases will depend on the frequency and complexity of the cases referred to the office.