

- Potential cost savings to counties due to an increase in the competitive bidding threshold for county boards of elections from \$10,000 to \$15,000.
 - Potential small cost to school districts and townships to notify county boards of elections of boundary changes.
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Detailed Fiscal Analysis

State Effects

A provision in the bill to eliminate an additional filing fee of \$20 for candidates running for village office could result in lost revenue to the Ohio Election Commission (OEC) of at least \$56,000 to \$112,000 for every even numbered fiscal year beginning in FY 2000. In FY 1999, this loss would have represented between 10% and 20% of the OEC's total budget. This estimate assumes that at least one candidate, and as many as two, run for each of four village office positions open every other year. In 1997, Ohio had approximately 698 villages.

The bill imposes a \$25 fine for each day a campaign committee of a candidate for state office fails to file a required declaration of filing day finances, a declaration of primary-day finances, or a declaration of year-end finances. This change could result in a negligible gain in revenue to the OEC.

The bill also prohibits foreign nationals from contributing to any candidate running for office in this state, and prohibits candidates from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. Violators of these provisions could be fined \$10,000 or more by the OEC. Any fines levied for such violations would result in a revenue gain to the OEC.

Another provision of the bill changes the criteria for when the OEC should hold expedited hearings. This change could result in a negligible decrease in costs to the OEC.

The bill also requires the State Board of Education to file with each affected county board of elections a copy of a proposal to create a new school district or transfer a school district. These notification requirements could result in a negligible cost increase to the state.

The bill makes other changes to the Elections Law, which have no fiscal impact on the state.

Local Effects

Several of the changes in the bill have the potential to lower costs among boards of elections. The most significant alteration is a provision raising the threshold above which boards of elections must use competitive bidding procedures. The bill raises the threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The fiscal impact of the increase in the competitive bidding threshold should be a decrease in expenditures among boards of elections due to reduced advertising, notification, and administrative costs associated with the competitive bidding process.

The bill could reduce costs to counties by eliminating the requirement to hold a special election when a congressional candidate of a minor or intermediate political party withdraws or dies.

Also, the bill requires that school districts and townships notify boards of elections when their boundaries change.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to file with each affected county board of elections a copy of a proposal to create a new school district or transfer a school district. These notification requirements could result in a negligible cost increase to school districts and townships.

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