



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. H.B. 504 of the 128th G.A.](#) **Date:** June 2, 2010
Status: As Reported by House Elections and Ethics **Sponsor:** Reps. Foley and R. Hagan

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No — Offsetting revenues

Contents: Candidate statement of net worth

State Fiscal Highlights

- **Ethics Commission.** The bill requires a candidate for a statewide, nonjudicial office to file a statement of net worth, in addition to the financial disclosure statement that is already required. According to the Commission, this requirement could result in increased enforcement costs that could exceed minimal, depending on whether a new investigator needs to be hired. The bill also requires the Commission to make this financial information collected under the terms of the bill available on its web site. The Commission does not currently post any campaign financial disclosure statements on its web site, but, according to the Commission, this provision should not create more than a minimal increase in expenditures.
- **Secretary of State.** The bill requires the Secretary of State to notify candidates of their obligation to file the statement of net worth required under the bill. This provision would be unlikely to have more than a negligible impact on the Secretary of State's budget.
- **Fine revenues.** As a result of the new court cases that could potentially result from violations of the bill's provisions, the state's Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0) and the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020) could see an increase in revenues. This increase, however, is unlikely to exceed negligible.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County and municipal courts may incur minimal costs in the event a court has to hear a misdemeanor case related to violations of the provisions of the bill. In the event that a court has to hear one of these cases, it could also see a slight gain in fine revenues, which would likely offset expenses related to processing a potentially small number of criminal cases created by the bill.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Ohio Ethics Commission

The bill requires a candidate for a statewide, nonjudicial office to file a comprehensive statement of net worth, in addition to the financial disclosure statement that is required under current law. The bill does not require any additional filing fees for the candidates affected by the bill's provisions. According to the Commission, there could be an increase in enforcement costs, particularly every four years during a state general election. Without knowing the extent of the investigations that would need to be done in order to comply with the provisions of the bill, the Commission may need to hire an additional investigator, which could result in additional expenditures of up to \$75,000 or more for salary and benefits. As a result, the increased costs projected by the Commission could approach, or even potentially exceed, minimal.

The bill also requires the Commission to make the financial information collected under the terms of the bill available on its web site. The Commission does not currently post any campaign financial disclosure statements on its web site, but, according to the Commission, this provision should not have more than a minimal increase in expenditures.

Secretary of State

The bill requires the Secretary of State to notify candidates of their obligation to file the statement of net worth required under the bill, as well as notify the Ohio Elections Commission of the name and address of each candidate required to file the statement. This provision would be unlikely to have more than a negligible impact on the Secretary of State's budget.

Violations

As a result of a potential increase in misdemeanor cases filed in the municipal and county courts as a result of possible violations of the bill's provisions, the state's Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0) and the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020) could see an increase in revenues. Given the expectation of very few criminal cases, this increase is unlikely to exceed negligible.

County and municipal courts may incur minimal costs in the event a court has to hear a misdemeanor case related to violations of the provisions of the bill. To the extent that county and municipal courts process any cases that might emerge under the bill, the fine revenues that would likely be collected can reasonably be expected to offset the case processing expenses.