



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.J.R. 4 of the 128th G.A.

Date: May 4, 2009

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Coughlin

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No — Not required for joint resolutions

Contents: Proposes a ballot initiative to revise the redistricting process for Ohio General Assembly districts

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2010	FY 2011	FUTURE YEARS
Controlling Board – GRF			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Transfer-out to Secretary of State, depending on amount requested	- 0 -	- 0 -
Secretary of State – Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code Filing Fund (Fund 5990)			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Increase to pay for ballot advertising costs	- 0 -	- 0 -

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2010 is July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

- Should the resolution be adopted and the measure appear on the ballot for the November 3, 2009 general election, the state would incur costs for the required newspaper advertising. The overall increase would depend on the length of the ballot measure. These costs are paid for by GRF transfers authorized by the Controlling Board to the Secretary of State's Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code Filing Fund (Fund 5990).

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Redistricting changes

The resolution alters the redistricting process for General Assembly districts in the state of Ohio by changing the composition of the five-member Apportionment Board. Currently, the Board consists of the Governor, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, and two members of the General Assembly selected by legislative leadership. The resolution modifies the General Assembly composition of the Board to include the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the minority party leadership of each chamber. The new Board would thus consist of seven members. The resolution also requires that a supermajority of five votes, instead of a simple majority of four votes, is needed to adopt any redistricting plan that emerges after the decennial census.

Ballot advertising costs

The Secretary of State would incur costs for ballot advertising under Article XVI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution, which requires that notice of ballot questions be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in each Ohio county. The cost would depend on the length of the amendment proposed by this resolution. As a recent example, the combined newspaper advertising costs for Issues 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, which appeared on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot, were \$631,629. Because it is a single issue, the redistricting language proposed in S.J.R. 4 would presumably cost considerably less than that amount to advertise statewide.

H.B. 1, the pending main operating budget bill for FY 2010–FY 2011, changes the funding mechanism by which the Secretary of State pays for ballot advertising costs. The current process requires the Secretary of State to submit a Controlling Board request to transfer the amount needed to cover advertising costs from GRF appropriation item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs, to the Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code Filing Fund (Fund 5990), the Secretary of State's main operating fund. H.B. 1 would change this process slightly by directing the Controlling Board transfers to a new fund, the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0).