
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Livestock care standards board

The resolution proposes a ballot issue for consideration on the November 2009 ballot creating the 13-member Livestock Care Standards Board. The Board is to consist of the Director of Agriculture, who will be the chairperson, ten members appointed by the Governor, one person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one person appointed by the President of the Senate. The Board would have authority to establish standards governing the care and well-being of livestock and poultry, considering factors that include, but are not limited to, agricultural best management practices, biosecurity, disease prevention, animal morbidity and mortality data, food safety practices, and the protection of local, affordable food supplies for consumers. Because it is currently the state agency that regulates agriculture, the Department of Agriculture would be responsible for administering and enforcing these standards. Any cost effects resulting from the adoption of this constitutional amendment will ultimately depend upon the standards created by the Board.

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 and the language of the proposed constitutional amendment is fairly concise, the statewide advertising costs for S.J.R. 6 would presumably be considerably less.

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).