



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.J.R. 10 of the 128th G.A.

Date: November 9, 2010

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Seitz

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

Contents: Raises the maximum age for assuming judicial office and repeals constitutional provisions that authorize the General Assembly to establish courts of conciliation and to reappoint a Supreme Court commissions

State Fiscal Highlights

- If both houses of the General Assembly concur in the resolution, the Secretary of State will incur a one-time non-GRF expense of up to \$200,000 or more to advertise the ballot issue statewide, with that expense then being reimbursed by the Controlling Board's transfer of cash from GRF line item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs.
- If voters approve raising the maximum age for assuming judicial office, and judicial officeholders serve longer, then the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) continues to collect their employee and employer contributions and pension benefit payments are in effect postponed.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County boards of elections will incur a minimal one-time expense to incorporate the proposed constitutional provisions into printed ballots and voting systems/machines.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Ballot advertising costs

If both houses of the General Assembly concur in the resolution, the Secretary of State will incur a one-time statewide ballot advertising cost of up to \$200,000 or more. Additionally, county boards of elections will incur a minimal one-time expense to incorporate the ballot issue into printed ballots, "punch card" voting systems, and computerized voting machines.

Under Article XVI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution, it is required 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 Secretary of State spent \$567,095 in statewide advertising costs for the three issues that appeared on the November 2009 ballot. Statewide advertising costs for this resolution (S.J.R. 10), because it involves a single ballot issue, would likely be considerably less. Moneys to pay for these costs are appropriated from the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0), which is administered by the Secretary of State. Typically, Fund 5FH0 is reimbursed by the Controlling Board's transfer of cash from GRF line item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs.

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)

If approved by the voters, the resolution may decrease PERS pension expenditures and increase pension assets, as judicial officeholders would be permitted to serve up to age 75, an additional 5 years above the current maximum age of 70. The magnitude of these revenue and expenditure changes will depend on the number of judicial officeholders who choose to extend their service beyond age 70 and the number of years they choose to do so.

Repeal of constitutional provisions

If approved by the voters, the repeal of Sections 19 and 22 of Article IV of the Ohio Constitution will have no direct fiscal effect on the state or any of its political subdivisions. This is because Ohio does not utilize courts of conciliation or a Supreme Court commissions.