

Executive

As Reported By House Finance

ELCCD2 Abolish Ohio Elections Commission

R.C. 109.02, 145.055, 145.99, 742.044, 742.99, 3307.074, 3307.99, 3309.074, 3309.99, 3501.05, 3501.11, 3513.04, 3513.05, 3513.10, 3513.261, 3517.01, 3517.08, 3517.081, 3517.102, 3517.109, 3517.1012, 3517.11, 3517.121, 3517.13, 3517.153 (3517.14), 3517.15, 3517.16, 3517.155 (3517.17), 3517.993 (3517.18), 3517.20, 3517.21, 3517.22, 3517.23, 3517.991 (reenacted), 3517.992 (3517.99), 5505.046, 5505.99, Section 525.50; Repealed: 3517.14, 3517.151, 3517.152, 3517.154, 3517.156, 3517.157, 3517.99, 3517.991

No provision.

Abolishes ELC as of January 1, 2026. Requires ELC, between the bill's effective date and January 1, 2026, to continue to hear the matters pending before it based on the current law requirements, but prohibits any new complaints from being filed with ELC during that time. Requires, instead, that complaints be filed with SOS or the board of elections, as applicable.

No provision.

Requires complaints regarding violations of the Campaign Finance Law to be heard by a hearing officer appointed by SOS or to be heard by a board of elections, depending on the violation, before any prosecution may commence.

No provision.

Changes several procedural requirements regarding administrative hearings of those complaints and the prosecutor to whom a violation may be referred, but generally retains the current administrative and criminal penalties.

No provision.

Transfers any matters pending before ELC as of January 1, 2026, to SOS or a board of elections, as applicable, for disposition under the amendment.

No provision.

Allows SOS to issue advisory opinions regarding the Campaign Finance Law and specifies that existing ELC opinions are considered SOS opinions unless and until they are amended or rescinded.

No provision.

Provides procedures for ELC to wind up its affairs and transfer its records, assets, and liabilities to SOS.

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No provision.

Removes all candidate filing fees credited to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (see ELCCD1).

No provision.

Transfers the cash balance of the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20) to the Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code Filing Fund (Fund 5990) on January 1, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter. Abolishes Fund 4P20 after the transfer is complete.

No provision.

Cancels any existing encumbrances against Fund 4P20 ALI 051601, Operating Support, and reestablishes them against Fund 5990 ALI 050630, Elections Support Supplement, used by SOS. Appropriates the reestablished encumbrance amounts.

**Fiscal effect: County Boards of Elections and the SOS will incur costs previously incurred by the ELC for complaints regarding violations of Campaign Finance Law.**

**ELCCD1 Candidate filing fees**

**R.C. 3513.10**

Increases the candidate filing fees by \$5 for the following offices: (1) State Board of Education, (2) county and municipal court judge, (3) state legislators, (4) U.S. Representatives, (5) city and county elected officials.

Increases the candidate filings fees by \$10 for: (1) statewide elected offices and (2) Court of Appeals and Court of Common Please judges.

**Fiscal effect: Additional revenue gain of approximately \$10,000 over the biennium for the Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20).**

**R.C. 3513.10**

Replaces the Executive provision with one that instead removes all candidate filing fees credited to the Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20). Removes additional candidate filing fees for the State Board of Education (see SBECD2) and county coroners (see LOCCD21) which are to be appointed rather than elected positions under the bill.

No provision.

**Fiscal effect: With the abolishment of ELC (see ELCCD2), ELC candidate filing fees paid to Fund 4P20 are repealed.**

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SBECD2 State Board of Education membership

R.C. 3301.01, 3301.02, 3301.03, and 3301.06; 3513.259 (repealed); Section 801.230; various other sections making conforming changes

No provision.

Reduces State Board of Education (SBE) membership from eight members appointed by the Governor and 11 elected members to a total of five members appointed by the Governor.

No provision.

Abolishes the offices of the elected SBE members upon expiration of their current terms or a vacancy in their offices and the offices of the first three appointed members whose terms expire or who vacate their offices.

No provision.

Modifies the representation requirements for appointed SBE members to require at least one member to represent each of a rural, suburban, and urban school district, a community school, and a chartered nonpublic school.

No provision.

Changes criteria for determining whether absences lead to a vacancy in SBE from two consecutive absences from regular SBE meetings for reasons that are declared insufficient by a vote of 12 members to three consecutive absences from regular meetings for any reason.

No provision.

Eliminates all requirements regarding the election of SBE members.

**Fiscal effect: Decrease in SBE board member compensation costs reaching roughly \$50,000 annually once the SBE falls to five members. SBE members are paid \$32.02 per hour for the performance of official duties. In 2024, SBE board members received an average of about \$3,500 in compensation. SBE members also receive travel reimbursements, which will decrease to some degree as well.**

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LOCCD21 County coroner appointment

R.C. 313.01, 305.02, 305.03; Section 703.10

No provision.

Requires that a county coroner be appointed quadrennially by the board of county commissioners instead of being elected quadrennially by voters as under current law.

No provision.

Removes the county coroner as the county official to fill in when two county commissioners are absent and instead requires the county auditor to do so.

No provision.

Allows current county coroners who were elected to complete their terms.

**Fiscal effect: None.**