



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 596** HLS 25RS 758
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 2, 2025	10:52 AM	Author: WRIGHT
Dept./Agy.: Ethics Administration		
Subject: Makes revisions to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act		Analyst: Julie Silva

CAMPAIGN FINANCE OR +\$97,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides for revisions to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act

Proposed legislation makes several changes to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. These include the establishment of leadership committees and the rules and operations for such committees. Requires leadership committees to file monthly reports to the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance no later than the 10th day of any month the committee accepts a contribution or receipt or makes an expenditure or disbursement. Amends the definition of a “political committee” to specify it does not include independent expenditure only committees, leadership committees, or principal campaign committees, which are now to be considered “committees” for the purposes of campaign finance disclosure laws. Authorizes committees to enter into joint fundraising agreements. Removes regulations and contribution limits for the purpose of supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters. Updates the reporting thresholds for financial disclosures across all areas. Makes updates to the reporting requirements of the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance which include creating an online database for advisory opinions and additional annual reporting to the legislature.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$97,000	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$97,000
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$97,000					\$97,000

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

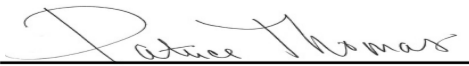
Proposed legislation is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures for the Ethics Administration by \$97,000 in FY 26. The largest portion of this cost is for updates to the Ethics Administration electronic filing system, the internal Campaign Finance Data Management System, and the agency’s website. Specific updates include: the revision of campaign finance forms in the LEADERS e-filing system; modification of the agency’s website to provide a method to search for updated forms and advisory opinions; and internal system upgrades to capture data required by the new semi-annual reports, the tracking of new investigative steps, committee types, and to link applicable candidates and committees.

The additional \$1,000 in operating expenses will allow for implementation of a process by which respondents to subpoenas issued by the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance can appear for hearings by telephone or videoconference. Beginning in FY 27, the Ethics Administration assumes minimal annual costs to continue providing a method by which those requesting it can participate in hearings via videoconference. For informational purposes, the cost of a Zoom Business Account, which allows up to 300 participants in a meeting, is \$220 annually. A large membership account, allowing for 1,000 participants, is \$600 annually.

Proposed legislation additionally requires the Ethics Adjudicatory Board, upon motion by an affected party, to pay any costs and attorneys' fees resulting from an "undue burden or expense". "Affected party" is defined in current law to include, but not be limited to, a candidate, committee, any member of a committee, a prospective witness, or any person whose books, records, papers, or other documents are the subject of any subpoena. The Ethics Adjudicatory Board provided that it is not a party to cases brought to them and does not have its own budget or expenditures. To the extent the board is required to pay these costs, the LFO assumes an increase in expenditures, assumed to be SGF for the purposes of this fiscal note, by its governing authority, the Division of Administrative Law, would be required.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	
			Patrice Thomas Deputy Fiscal Officer