



SENATE BILL 725: Prohibit Private Money in Elections Administration.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	February 7, 2022
Introduced by:	Sens. Hise, Daniel, Newton	Prepared by:	Sarah Pilon
Analysis of:	Ratified		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 725 would have prohibited the State Board of Elections, county boards of elections, and county boards of commissioners from accepting private monetary donations, directly or indirectly, for conducting elections or employing individuals on a temporary basis. This bill was ratified by the General Assembly on November 30, 2021, and vetoed by the Governor on December 9, 2021.*

CURRENT LAW: Generally, State and local government entities involved in administering elections receive funding from public sources. However, nothing prohibits State and local entities from seeking grants or otherwise accepting funds from private sources for the purpose of conducting elections.

Each county board of elections has supervisory authority over the conduct of elections within the county. Specifically, the county boards of commissioners are responsible for appropriating "reasonable and adequate funds necessary for the legal functions of the county board of elections." G.S. 163-37. With respect to municipal elections conducted by the county board of elections, "[e]ach municipality and special district shall reimburse the county board of elections for the actual cost involved in the administration" of that election. G.S. 163-284.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 725 would have prohibited the State Board of Elections, county boards of elections, and county boards of commissioners from accepting private monetary donations, either directly or indirectly, for either of the following purposes:

- Conducting elections.
- Employing individuals on a temporary basis. For county boards of commissioners, the restriction would have applied to employing individuals on a temporary basis for elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 725 would have been effective on July 1, 2022. The bill was ratified by the General Assembly on November 30, 2021, and vetoed by the Governor on December 9, 2021.

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