

Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 23-5295/1	Introduction Number SB-0822
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Description
 local candidates filing campaign finance reports and making an appropriation

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues
- Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes
 - No
- Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
 - Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
- 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected**
- Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected **Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

GPR
 FED
 PRO
 PRS
 SEG
 SEGS

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
ETHC/ Dan Carlton (608) 267-0715	Dan Carlton (608) 267-0715	1/19/2024

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ETHC 1/19/2024

LRB Number	23-5295/1	Introduction Number	SB-0822	Estimate Type	Original
Description local candidates filing campaign finance reports and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill requires all local candidates and committees under Ch. 11 of the Wisconsin Statutes to register with the Ethics Commission and file required campaign finance reports with the Ethics Commission. This will add thousands of new committees to the Commission's registrants. The Commission will be expected to audit and process campaign finance related complaints for these new committees. The auditing process includes querying data, contact the committee for further information, evaluating the response and, if further action is appropriate preparation of settlements and/or Commission meeting memoranda. This is a significant increase in staff workload.

The current version of the bill has allocated two additional ethics specialists, one attorney, and additional furniture and other office-related needs. Upon further review, the Commission believes that additional resources will be necessary. However, staff has not been able to complete an assessment of those needs. An amendment to the Assembly companion (2023 AB 853) was filed January 19, 2024, which moves the effective date of the bill. The amendment also removes the fiscal provisions. This amendment will allow the Commission sufficient time to build the new local office registration and filing features into the new campaign finance website. Further, by pushing the effective date to July 1, 2025, it will allow the Commission more time to evaluate the staffing and resource needs from this bill and another piece of legislation that may pass. The Commission will handle the additional needs through the next biennial budget request. The Commission hopes that the same amendment will be filed on this bill, if necessary.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The impact of the bill is a permanent registration and reporting shift from local filing officers to the Commission. The above-described fiscal impacts in the assumptions will continue permanently into the future.