



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 315 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: March 20, 2012

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Baker and Sears

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Increases the penalty for making false statements in campaign materials under certain circumstances

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill increases the maximum monetary penalty for making false statements in campaign materials from \$5,000 to \$100,000 in certain cases. Any additional fine revenue collected by the Ohio Elections Commission as a result of the bill would be deposited into the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20).
- The Ohio Elections Commission generally receives between 70 and 75 complaints alleging false campaign statements each fiscal year.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill increases the maximum penalty for making a false campaign statement in certain circumstances from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Specifically, the penalty applies in cases where individuals or groups who persist in making false campaign statements after the Ohio Elections Commission has found that such a violation occurred in a prior hearing. Any fine revenue collected as a result of the bill would be deposited into the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20). In addition to fines imposed by the Ohio Elections Commission, the fund receives a portion of filing fees for petitions of candidacy collected by the Secretary of State, including races for statewide offices and ballot issues, and races for Ohio House and Senate seats. Fund 4P20 collects approximately \$100,000 in odd-numbered years and \$300,000 in even-numbered years, according to the election cycle. Annual fine revenue, however, fluctuates depending on the cases involved. The Commission generally receives between 70 and 75 complaints for false campaign statements in a given fiscal year.

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