



Legislative
Council Staff

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FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0660
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Sirota
Sen. Zenzinger

Date: June 19, 2019
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR COUNTY OFFICES

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue (<i>minimal</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill sets campaign contribution limits for candidates for county offices. The bill increases state expenditures by \$7,000 in FY 2019-20 only; it also increases workload by a minimal amount, and potentially increases revenue from fines on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: The bill requires an appropriation of \$7,000 to the Secretary of State in FY 2019-20.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1007

		FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$7,000	
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary

This bill establishes contribution limits and disclosure requirements for candidates for county offices. The maximum contribution that a candidate or candidate committee for a county office can accept for either the primary or general election are as follows:

- \$1,250 from any person;
- \$12,500 from a small donor committee; and
- \$22,125 from a political party.

These contribution limits must be adjusted for inflation every four years by the Department of State.

Background

County offices include county commissioner, county clerk and recorder, sheriff, coroner, treasurer, assessor, and surveyor. Disclosures by candidates for county offices are filed with the Department of State.

State Revenue

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill potentially increases fine revenue to the Department of State Cash Fund from county office campaigns that fail to correctly file campaign finance disclosures, or for other violations of contribution limits and disclosure requirements. This analysis assumes a high level of compliance and a small amount of fines imposed, if any. For this reason, fine revenue is expected to be minimal. Fine revenue to the Department of State is subject to the TABOR constitutional revenue limit.

State Expenditures

For FY 2019-20 only, this bill increases Department of State Cash Fund expenditures by \$7,000. These funds are needed for programming changes to the online campaign finance system, TRACER, which permits candidate disclosures and contribution auditing. This work is performed by a vendor under contract with the department.

Violations of campaign contribution limits or disclosure requirements can result in complaints being filed with the Department of State, and cases being referred to administrative law judges (ALJs) in the Department of Personnel and Administration. This analysis assumes that any increase in complaints and ALJ referrals will be minimal and can be handled within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 12, 2019, and takes effect August 2, 2019, assuming no referendum petition is filed. It applies to the portion of any election cycle or calendar year remaining as of the effective date, and for any election commencing after that date, whichever is applicable.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the final bill includes an appropriation of \$7,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Department of State.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Law

County Clerks
Personnel

Information Technology
Secretary Of State