



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 18-0561	Date:	February 1, 2018
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Merrifield Rep. Arndt	Bill Status:	Senate SVMA
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Bill Topic: CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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

This bill sets limits for contributions to school board director candidates from individuals and small donor committees. It will increase state revenue and workload by a minimal amount on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note
Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

This bill sets the maximum amount of contributions that may be made to or received by a candidate or committee of a candidate for local school district board of education. The maximum contribution for a regular biennial or special school board election is set at \$500. The maximum contribution that a small donor committee may make is \$5,000. In addition, candidates for school board director must file periodic disclosures with the Secretary of State.

State Revenue

Beginning in FY 2018-19, this bill potentially increases fine revenue to the Department of State Cash Fund from local school board campaigns that fail to file campaign finance disclosures in a timely manner. This analysis assumes a high level of compliance and a low collection rate for any fines imposed, so any revenue is assumed to be minimal.

TABOR Refund

The bill potentially increases state revenue subject to TABOR starting in FY 2018-19. State revenue is not currently expected to exceed the TABOR limit over the next two fiscal years and no refund is required. Therefore, the bill is not expected to impact TABOR refunds in these years. However, refunds in future years when the state next collects a TABOR surplus will be increased.

State Expenditures

The Department of State will have a minimal increase in workload beginning in FY 2018-19 to receive and process disclosure reports from local school board candidates on a more frequent basis and to monitor compliance. If a violation occurs, staff time will also be needed to assess a penalty, notify the offending party, and issue penalty invoices. In FY 2018-19, staff at the Department of State will be required to make some minor adjustments to its campaign finance data system. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Violations of these contribution limits or disclosure requirements could 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 takes effect July 1, 2018, and applies to any election beginning, or portion of an election cycle remaining, after this effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education
Personnel

Information Technology
School Districts

Law
State