



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	S. 0174	Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author:	Bennett	
Subject:	Campaign Practices	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Griffith	
Impact Date:	March 19, 2021	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will increase General Fund expenditures of the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by \$237,535 in FY 2021-22 and by \$205,535 in each year thereafter to account for the increase in workload and complaints of alleged violations of the Ethics Reform Act related to election communications. The bill may increase General Fund revenue if complaint actions are found to be in violation of the State Ethics Act, but the amount is undetermined. The Commission indicates that any increase in revenue will be used to offset expenditures related to this bill.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill adds a list of disclosures that an independent expenditure committee must provide related to election communications. These disclosures must be filed with the State Ethics Commission on the same schedule as campaign reports pursuant to Code Section 8-13-1308. The Commission reports that in order to account for the increase in complaints of alleged violations of the Ethics Reform Act, it will need one Investigator III position to conduct criminal and administrative investigations and prosecution. Additionally, the Commission will require two new Administrative Assistant positions to account for the increase in campaign forms to review to ensure compliance with the Ethics Reform Act. These three new FTEs will have a combined salary (including fringe benefits) of \$165,535 per year. Office space, technology, one law enforcement vehicle lease, and other office supplies will increase recurring General Fund expenditures by \$40,000. Non-recurring General Fund expenditures will increase by \$32,000 in FY 2021-22 for law enforcement equipment, body armor, and office furniture.

In total, General Fund expenditures will increase by \$237,535 in FY 2021-22 and by \$205,535 in each year thereafter.

State Revenue

The State Ethics Commission reports that its General Fund revenue may increase if complaint actions are initiated and found to be in violation of the State Ethics Act. However, the number of violations is unknown, and therefore, the increase in revenue is undetermined. The Commission indicates that any revenue increase would be used to offset expenditures related to this bill.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director