



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB17-1260

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0523
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Kennedy
Sen. Fenberg

Date: March 20, 2017
Bill Status: House SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Creighton (303-866-5834)

BILL TOPIC: CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR COUNTY OFFICES

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
Cash Funds	Minimal increase.	
State Expenditures	\$10,000	Minimal workload increase.
Cash Funds	10,000	
Appropriation Required: \$10,000 - Department of State (FY 2017-18).		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing minimal workload increase.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill establishes contribution limits and disclosure requirements for both primary and general elections for candidates for county offices. The maximum contribution that a candidate or candidate committee for a county office can accept 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 for candidates for county offices are filed with the Department of State.

State Revenue

This bill increases state cash fund revenue from fines by establishing county office contribution limits and disclosure reporting requirements. Candidates that fail to file disclosures in a timely manner or that violate contribution limits may be fined and any revenue received will be deposited into the Department of State Cash Fund. State candidates have a high level of

compliance with campaign finance contribution and disclosure requirements and a similar level of compliance is expected from county office candidates. As a result, any increase in revenue is expected to be minimal.

TABOR Impact

This bill may increase state revenue from fines, which will increase the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR for FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19. TABOR refunds are paid out of the General Fund. Since the bill potentially increases the TABOR refund obligation without a corresponding change in General Fund revenue, the amount of money available in the General Fund for the budget will decrease by an identical amount.

State Expenditures

For FY 2017-18 only, this bill increases Department of State Cash Fund expenditures by \$10,000. These funds are needed for programming changes to the online campaign finance system, TRACER, to allow county office candidate disclosures to be submitted and contribution auditing to be done using this system. This work will be performed by a vendor that the department contracts with for the maintenance of TRACER.

Workload increases for the Department of State to receive complaints of county office candidate contribution limit and disclosure requirement violations and to verify that all of the required information has been included in the complaint. To the extent that complaints concerning county office candidate contribution limit or disclosure requirement violations are received, workload will increase in the Office of Administrative Courts for an Administrative Law Judge hearing. A high level of compliance is assumed, therefore any increase in workload is expected to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. This bill applies to any election cycle or calendar year commencing, or remaining portion, after the effective date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2017-18, this bill requires an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund to the Department of State.

State and Local Government Contacts

Clerks	Counties
Local Affairs	Information Technology
Personnel and Administration	Secretary of State