



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 633

PRINTERS NO. 1806

PRIME SPONSOR: M.K. Keller

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$0
County Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Permits all candidates and political committees that file campaign finance reports with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to file the reports electronically. This legislation would take effect 120 days after the publication occurs in the PA Bulletin when the Secretary of the Commonwealth confirms that the electronic filing system has been developed.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Election Code to permit campaign finance reports that are filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to be filed electronically using the electronic filing system developed by the Secretary.

The legislation establishes the following criteria for campaign expenses reports that are filed electronically. The reports:

- Are subject to penalties for perjury;
- Shall include the electronic signature of the treasurer or assistant treasurer of the political committee;
- In the case of a report filed by a candidate's political committee, shall include the electronic signature of the candidate, stating that the political committee has not violated any provisions of the Election Code.

This legislation requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to maintain a searchable database and electronic reporting system to include information on campaign contributions and expenditures. The legislation also requires the Secretary to:

- Equip the reporting system with an emergency recovery system.
- Establish a training program on the use of the reporting system.
- Enter into the electronic system within 4 days of receipt, any reports that are not filed electronically.
- Issue an electronic receipt that includes a confirmation number and the date and time of filing.

Under the legislation, any candidate or committee that is not able to file electronically shall notify the Department of State immediately. If the website is unavailable and the notification occurred by the candidate or political committee, they shall have until 11:59 PM on the next day to file the report or statement because of the unavailability of the electronic system after the system has been repaired. The Department of State may provide for an alternative method if electronic filing system remains unavailable. The Department may also waive late fees in the event that the electronic system causes delays.

The legislation also eliminates an existing provision of the Election Code, which requires all candidates and candidate political committees that file campaign expense reports with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to also file a copy of the report with the county board of elections in the candidate's county of residence. Candidates and candidate political committees that file electronic reports with the Secretary will no longer be required to file a copy of the reports with the candidate's county of residence.

This legislation also provides that county voter registration offices shall, by request by any person, obtain from the electronic reporting system maintained by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and provide for review, any campaign finance report required to be filed electronically with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Department of State currently administers a voluntary electronic filing system for campaign finance reports. Electronic campaign finance reports are recorded and maintained within the Department's online filing database. The Department indicates that any additional modifications to their filing system could be funded under existing appropriations.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 14, 2019

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.