

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 120

PRINTER'S NO. 920

AMOUNT

Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 14, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Pileggi

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to STATE GOVERNMENT, Jan. 14, 2013
Reported as amended, March 19, 2013
First consideration, March 19, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 10, 2013
Re-reported as amended, April 15, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 120 amends the Pennsylvania Election Code by requiring all candidates for statewide office or the General Assembly, to file their campaign reports online.

Amendment A00799 changes the threshold and time period for campaign reporting to \$100,000 in a calendar year. It requires the reports to be filed in each of the seven reporting cycles in the following calendar year. The amendment requires all candidates and committees who currently file with the Department of State, including candidates for the Courts of Common Pleas and statewide political action committees (PACs), to file electronically.

The Amendment adds language which details the process of filing electronically, and includes deadline extensions and other procedures if the Department's electronic filing system is down at a deadline. The legislation also requires anyone raising campaign funds through a website to include the website address in their campaign reports.

The Amendment increases the late filing fees and time periods each of the late fees is imposed and increases the maximum fee.

The act shall take effect in 60 days.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of State anticipates annual savings to occur by requiring all candidates and statewide committees who currently file with the Department to file electronically. This savings is attributed to the current data entry contracts for written submissions no longer being necessary and terminated. Additionally, storage requirements for paper records will be lessened and result in some minimal savings.

Additional costs to the Department may be incurred to modify their current electronic filing system and upgrade its capacity to accommodate anticipated increased reporting volume. However, such costs are expected to be minimal if the change coincides with the Department's current contract provisions for allowable future scheduled changes to its computer system.