

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 140

PRINTER NO. 117

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 28, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Browne

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 140 amends the Pennsylvania Election Code to require electronic filing of campaign finance reports.

This legislation requires all campaign finance reports or statements that are filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth (secretary) to be submitted electronically. The secretary is required to develop and maintain the electronic filing system and make available a training program for the electronic filing system.

Senate Bill 140 increases penalties for failing to file reports and statements on time. The fine for submissions six or fewer days late is \$50 per day; the fine for submissions seven or more days late is \$100 per day. The maximum penalty is \$2,000. A report is not considered filed until all fines have been paid.

This legislation requires that businesses which have received no-bid contracts from the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions and submit reports disclosing political contributions must submit via the electronic system.

The secretary shall notify the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin when the electronic filing system is available for use, and the act shall take effect 120 days after the publication.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 140 will have no negative fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of State anticipates all necessary IT system changes can be accommodated within existing staffing and funding levels. The Commonwealth may realize additional revenue as a result of the increases to fine amounts. The amount of additional revenue will be determined by the number of reports that are submitted after the deadline and the length of time the reports are delayed.