


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0498
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Gardner B.

Date: January 18, 2007
Bill Status: House SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Chris Ward (303-866-5834)

TITLE: CONCERNING A PROHIBITION ON THE IMPOSITION OF A FEE ON THE FILING OF ANY DISCLOSURE REPORT REQUIRED TO BE FILED UNDER COLORADO LAW GOVERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009
State Revenue	See State Revenue section	
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section	
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008: See State Appropriations section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits the Secretary of State from charging a fee on the filing of any campaign finance report required to be filed under the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA). The prohibition would also apply to fees charged for amendments or corrections to any FCPA report.

State Revenue

The bill will not change the current level of fee revenue to the Department of State, but it will reduce collections from projections under current law. Under its statutory authority to adjust fees to cover all direct and indirect costs, the department has adopted a rule to implement a \$1 per page fee on manually filed FCPA reports beginning April 2, 2007. The fee will cover a portion of the data entry costs associated with manual filings and attempts to encourage electronic filings, which cost little or nothing to accept. This bill would preclude the imposition of any such fee. Based on the number of manual filings, the department was expected to collect \$19,072 in FY 2007-08 and \$25,000 in FY 2008-09 from this fee. The higher amount in FY 2008-09 is attributable to a higher number of filings in the presidential election year.

State Expenditures

The bill will not directly increase state expenditures from the current level, but it may increase staffing needs of the Department of State from current projections. To encourage the electronic filing of FCPA reports, the department has established a fee on manual filings that would be prohibited under this bill. As a result, the department may need additional resources to accommodate a larger-than-expected number of manually-filed reports. Based on the number of manual filings, the department would need an additional 2.0 FTE per year beginning in FY 2007-08. The first-year cost of this staff would be \$72,917. Beginning in FY 2008-09, staffing costs would total \$66,907 for the 2.0 FTE. It should be noted, however, that these costs could be avoided if the department chooses to require that certain reports be filed electronically instead of manually, as allowed by current law. For purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that the department will mandate electronic filing of FCPA reports beginning in FY 2007-08.

State Appropriations

No new state appropriations are required in FY 2007-08 to implement the bill, unless the department elects not to require the electronic filing of reports.

Departments Contacted

State