

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE
FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 10-0767
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Court
 Sen. Steadman

Date: April 1, 2010
Bill Status: House SVMA
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

TITLE: CONCERNING CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
State Revenue		
Cash Funds		
Department of State Cash Fund		<\$1,000
State Expenditures		
Cash Funds		
Ballot Information Publication and Distribution Revolving Fund		<\$1,000
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: January 1, 2011, if no referendum petition is filed, and applies to any ballot issue petition that has a ballot title fixed on or after this date.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill includes several provisions to increase disclosure by issue committees and individuals involved in the statewide ballot issue process. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- requires ballot measure proponents to register as an issue committee and file disclosure reports if more than 200 petition sections are printed or accepted in connection with circulation of the petition;
- requires persons who submit written comments about a ballot measure during the Blue Book process to include their names and list any organizations that they represent or with whom they are affiliated;
- requires that each section of the Blue Book listing arguments for and against a ballot measure include language stating that information on issue committees that support and oppose the ballot measures is available online, followed by a link to the Department of State website;
- sets criteria for identifying issue committees that are involved in supporting or opposing ballot measures;

- requires issue committees to identify themselves in all communications and advertisements that support or oppose a ballot measure; and
- specifies enforcement measures for issue committees that do not file required disclosure statements.

State Revenue

The bill could result in a small increase in fine revenue (<\$1,000) to the Department of State in general election years, beginning in FY 2011-12. Under current law, issue committees that make expenditures supporting or opposing a ballot measure are required to file disclosure statements. The bill expands this filing requirement proponents that circulate more than 200 petition sections to get a measure onto the ballot. This analysis assumes that most ballot proponents are already counted as an issue committee based on their expenditures, so the increase in disclosure statements filed based on circulating petition sections is expected to be minimal. However, if any of newly covered issue committees file disclosure statements late, additional fine revenue will result.

State Expenditures

The bill is not expected to significantly increase costs to any state agencies. The Department of State can process the expected additional disclosure statements within existing resources. To the extent that the required language in the Blue Book increases the number of pages required, the Legislative Council could have increased printing and postage costs. However, these costs are expected to be minimal (<\$1,000) and will be paid from Ballot Information Publication and Distribution Revolving Fund, which is continuously appropriated to the Legislative Council.

Departments Contacted

Personnel and Administration
Legislative Legal Services

Law
Legislative Council

State