

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB0049

Title: Revise fair campaign practice laws

Primary

Sponsor: Steve Doherty

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	Chuck Swysgood, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$10,848	\$9,443
Revenue:		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	(\$10,848)	(\$9,443)

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact		X	Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts
	X	Dedicated Revenue Form Attached		X	Family Impact Form Attached

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Election material contained in 13-35-225, MCA, includes communications advocating success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or ballot issue through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing, poster, handbill, bumper sticker, or other form of general political advertising. Passage of SB 49 would require the text of all communications advocating the success or defeat of a candidate, political party or ballot issue together with an affidavit to be filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices.

2. With passage of SB 49, the volume of additional materials required to be filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices would necessitate additional file storage space.

3. There were approximately 1,480 candidates and committees who filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices in 2000. Assuming that each candidate and committee would have an average of five communications, passage of SB 49 would require the filing of in excess of 7,400 communications texts and affidavits; and it would be necessary for the Commissioner of Political Practices to contract for half-time administrative support services to complete the filing tasks.

4. Passage of SB 49 would result in the filing of official complaints and, therefore, additional legal expenses would result. It is not possible to anticipate the number of complaints and resultant legal costs. Depending upon the number of complaints filed, additional legal expenses might be significant. The costs would be paid from the biennial appropriation set up for major legal expenses. This appropriation for legal fees may not be sufficient to meet all costs and the Commissioner might have to seek supplemental authority to pay those costs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$10,848	\$9,443
<u>Funding:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$10,848	\$9,443
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
General Fund (01)	(\$10,848)	(\$9,443)