

**Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB 1576

Patron: Cherry

Bill Title: Campaign fundraising; violations during legislative sessions, enforcement of civil penalty.

Bill Summary: Provides that violations of the prohibition on campaign fundraising during legislative sessions are to be reported to the Attorney General who shall initiate civil proceedings to enforce the civil penalty currently assessed for such violations. The bill provides that in the case of an alleged violation by the Attorney General, the State Board of Elections shall request the Supreme Court of Virginia to appoint outside counsel to receive such violation report and such outside counsel shall be responsible for initiating civil proceedings to enforce the civil penalty.

Budget Amendment Necessary:

Items Impacted: Item 49

Yes

Explanation: There is an anticipated impact to the Office of the Attorney General, however the impact to the State Board of Elections is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: Currently these responsibilities are held by local Commonwealth Attorneys. This bill will shift costs from local Commonwealth Attorneys to the Office of the Attorney General and the State Board of Elections.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
Office of the Attorney General	-	\$144,160	\$144,160	\$144,160	\$144,160	\$144,160
State Board of Elections	-	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
TOTAL	-	\$144,160	\$144,160	\$144,160	\$144,160	\$144,160

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
Office of the Attorney General	-	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	-	1	1	1	1	1

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Fiscal Analysis: The proposed bill would create a new responsibility on the State Board of Elections to report violations of this kind to the Attorney General. Elections currently does not have the capacity or expertise to investigate violations to determine if reports should be forwarded to the Attorney General. Without prior history the cost to shift the reporting responsibility to Elections is indeterminate. The Office of the Attorney General would assume additional responsibilities that are currently handled by local Commonwealth's Attorneys, requiring them to allocate resources toward enforcing these penalties. To effectively manage this increased workload, the Attorney General's Office would need to hire an additional staff member, with an estimated annual cost of \$144,160. The burdens would be lessened on the Commonwealth's Attorneys, and they could devote resources to other crimes

Other: Similar bills include HB 1575