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

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Bill Number: HB 2701 Patron: Bulova
Bill Title: Campaign finance; campaign contribution limits; civil penalty.

Bill Summary: Prohibits persons from making any single contribution, or any combination of contributions, that exceeds \$20,000 to any one candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, or the Senate of Virginia or \$10,000 to any one candidate for the House of Delegates in any one election cycle. The bill does not place any limits on in-kind contributions to such candidates from political party committees. The bill establishes thresholds for any candidates making contributions to their own campaign in excess of \$400,000 in a race for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, or the Senate of Virginia or \$200,000 in a race for House of Delegates. The bill also prohibits persons from making any single contribution, or any combination of contributions, that exceeds \$10,000 to any one political committee in any calendar year. Civil penalties for violations of the limits established by the bill may equal up to two times the excess contribution amounts.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: There is an indeterminate state fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
The						
Department of Elections	-	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
TOTAL						

Fiscal Analysis: The proposed legislation to create the required functionality within the existing system (COMET), has an indeterminate fiscal impact at this time. Currently, the Department of Elections (ELECT) has limited capacity to absorb the additional workload with its existing staffing. To implement the necessary changes, contractors will be required to develop and test a solution, although a detailed scope of work has not yet been initiated.

ELECT has been awarded funding in the Governor's introduced budget to begin planning for the replacement of the COMET system. The functionality outlined in this bill will be incorporated into the overall requirements for the COMET replacement project.

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Additionally, this bill, along with other related legislation, calls for ELECT and the State Board of Elections to assess and collect civil penalties for various Campaign Finance infractions. This represents a significant expansion of responsibilities for the Campaign Finance Division of ELECT and the State Board of Elections. As a result, additional subject matter expertise and staffing may be necessary to effectively manage this expanded workload.

Any civil penalties collected as a result of the provisions of this bill will also have a state fiscal impact.

Other: N/A