

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB162

Patron: Simon

Bill Title: Public campaign financing; counties and cities may establish for certain offices.

Bill Summary: Authorizes the governing body of a county or city to establish by ordinance a system of public campaign financing for elected local offices. The bill specifies certain requirements for a system of public campaign financing established by a governing body, including the provision of a public election fund to be administered by the treasurer of the county or city. A system of public campaign financing established by a county or city is permitted to more stringently regulate the campaign finance activity of participating candidates and shall be subject to regulation and oversight by the State Board of Elections to ensure its conformity with state law and policy to the extent practicable.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: No

Fiscal Summary: There is an indeterminate fiscal impact due to the provisions of this bill. Potential cost ranges are provided below.

Fiscal Analysis: The fiscal impact of this bill is considered routine. The proposed legislation allows the governing body of a county or city to establish, through ordinance, a system of public campaign financing for local elected offices. The bill mandates that the State Board of Elections ensure that any such system created adheres to state laws and policies. The Department of Elections (ELECT) will be responsible for regulations and oversight set forth by the State Board of Elections. This could necessitate updates to training, as well as adjustments to systems, processes, and guidance, to ensure accurate reporting. The extent of fiscal impact will be influenced by how many counties or cities decide to implement a system of local public campaign financing that would require oversight. If an excessive number of systems are approved ELECT may require funding for oversight. ELECT estimates for oversight assistance an employee could spend from 8 to 80 hours completing the task required. Based on the estimated hours and a fully loaded salary (\$46.58) for the area that would be responsible for the duties it's estimated that the agency could incur a cost from \$372.64 to \$3,726.40 to cover the requirement of the bill per locality.

Other: N/A