

SF1915 - 0 - Campaign Spending Limits Study Required

Chief Author: **Liz Boldon**
 Committee: **Elections**
 Date Completed: **3/4/2025 9:15:48 AM**
 Agency: **Campaign Finance Board**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Steve McDaniel **Date:** 3/4/2025 9:15:48 AM
Phone: 651-284-6437 **Email:** steve.mcdaniel@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund						
Expenditures	-	12	-	-	-	-
Absorbed Costs	-	(12)	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

The bill requires the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (the Board) to study and prepare a report for the legislature on the subject of voluntary spending limits imposed by the public subsidy program. The report must include information on; 1) the historic participation in the public subsidy program by office; 2) the number of candidates that do not participate in the program by office; 3) historic trends in issues 1 and 2; 4) how much candidate who do not participate in the public subsidy program spend on their campaigns, and the independent expenditures in the race; 5) how other states set up voluntary public subsidy programs; and 6) if appropriate any recommendations the board has regarding the current public subsidy program, and whether the current spending limits are appropriate. The report must be completed and provided to the Legislature by January 15, 2026.

Assumptions

The study and report will be conducted by Board staff. Communication with other states on their public subsidy program will not require travel to those states. The Board will conduct a survey of approximately 1,000 Minnesota candidates. The survey will include at a minimum the requirements addressed in this bill. The total time spent on the report will be approximately 200 hours, spread among three staff members. There will also be mailing costs for the survey. The details of expenditures related to the report are in the expenditure section.

Staff costs are already a part of the Board's budget, so identifiable costs for staff time for the project will be absorbed by the Board's budget. The mailing costs, while identifiable, are not so significant that the Board's budget cannot absorb the costs. Board staff will bring the results of the study and a draft report to the Board for review and recommendations. It is assumed that the review will occur at a regularly scheduled meeting, therefore additional per diem payments and other meeting costs will not be incurred. In summary, identifiable costs can be absorbed by the Board, therefore, an increase in the Board's base operating budget is not needed.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Staff Member	Hours Spent on Report	Hourly Rate		Total
Executive Director	100	\$67.00		\$ 6,700.00

Legal Management Analysis	50	\$45.46		\$ 2,273.00
Legal Management Analysis	50	\$36.71		\$ 1,835.50
			Total Staff Cost	\$ 10,808.50
Mailing Costs	Number	Mailing Cost - survey and repaid return envelope (first class X 2)		Total Mailing Cost
Survey to candidates	1,000	\$1.46		\$1,460.00
			Mailing and Staff Cost	\$12,268.50

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

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