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S.B. 4
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

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SUMMARY

- Creates the Election Integrity Unit in the Office of the Secretary of State, which was created in similar, but not identical, form as part of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill creates the Election Integrity Unit in the Office of the Secretary of State. The bill was enacted in similar, but not identical, form as part of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly (the main operating budget act), effective September 30, 2025. For a full explanation of that law, see the LSC's [Final Analysis of H.B. 96](#) (PDF).¹

If enacted in its current form, S.B. 4 would generally retain the new law governing the Election Integrity Unit, but would make two changes:²

1. It would reinstate a provision of H.B. 96, vetoed by the Governor, that would have permitted the Unit, after referring a violation of the Election Law to a county prosecutor, to re-refer the matter to the Attorney General for further investigation or prosecution if the county prosecutor declined to prosecute within a year.
2. It would appear to remove the Unit's investigatory jurisdiction over violations of the Campaign Finance Law. H.B. 96 expanded the Unit's role in investigating Election Law violations to include campaign finance related matters as part of the Secretary of State's new duties in that area under H.B. 96.

¹ Available on the General Assembly's website at legislature.ohio.gov under "Search Legislation."

² R.C. 3501.055.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-22-25
Reported, S. General Government	06-18-25
Passed Senate (24-8)	06-18-25
