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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 264
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 264's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fischer and A. Mathews

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jared Cape, Budget Analyst

The bill appears to have no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. It expands existing prohibitions against the use of public money for political purposes to specifically prohibit certain communications during the 30 days before an election that refer to, but do not directly advocate support or opposition of, a candidate, levy, or bond issue. Under current law, a person who violates this prohibition could be prosecuted and found guilty of a first degree misdemeanor which carries penalties of up to 180 days in jail and a fine up to \$1,000. It appears unlikely that the expansion of this prohibition would result in any additional criminal offenses.

Presumably, political subdivisions will either shift the publication of certain communications to be outside the 30 days before an election, remove prohibited content from publications published before an election, or forego sending certain communications that had historically been sent prior to elections.