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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 215**  
**135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for S.B. 215's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Gavarone and McColley

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) may incur costs to investigate and enforce the campaign finance prohibitions established in this bill.
- The ELC may potentially offset these costs through any fines collected from the campaign finance violations established in the bill. The fine for each infraction is three times the amount involved or \$10,000, whichever is greater, and would be paid to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20).

### **Detailed Analysis**

The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) could incur costs to investigate and enforce the campaign finance prohibitions established under the bill. The magnitude of any such costs are uncertain and would presumably be in proportion to the frequency and complexity of potential campaign finance violations arising from the bill. The ELC may partially or fully offset such costs through fines collected as a result of these campaign finance violations. Much like any new investigative costs from the bill, any fine revenue collected is also uncertain, and will depend on the frequency and dollar amount of campaign finance violations. The fine for each infraction under this bill is three times the amount involved or \$10,000, whichever is greater. The fines would be deposited into to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20).

In particular, the bill prohibits (1) foreign nationals and lawful permanent U.S. residents from making a campaign contribution or expenditure to support or oppose a state or local ballot issue, either directly or through another entity, and (2) any entity, including a continuing association or corporation, from accepting such a contribution or expenditure. To these ends, the bill also requires organizations to return such contributions and certify in their campaign finance filings that these types of contributions have not and will not be accepted. The bill

extends violations of campaign finance law regarding foreign nationals and candidates to state and local ballot issues.