

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7098
BILL NUMBER: SB 233

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2026
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Powers and Duties of the Election Commission.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Gaskill

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *Separation of Committee Disbanding*— The bill separates out the procedures for how a county election board and the Indiana Election Commission (Commission) may administratively disband certain committees into two different sections of the Indiana Code. The bill allows the Commission to administratively disband a committee if: (1) the committee has not filed a report of expenditures during the previous calendar year; (2) the committee has never filed a report of expenditures or the last report filed reported cash on hand that did not exceed \$1,000; and (3) the Election Division has attempted to contact the committee but the communication was returned or otherwise undeliverable.

Civil Penalties for State Election Violations— The bill removes the discretion of the Commission with respect to certain civil penalties that may be imposed and instead requires the Commission to impose the civil penalties. The bill requires the Commission to assess a civil penalty of \$1,000 or \$500, plus investigative costs, for certain violations. The bill provides that a \$500 civil penalty shall be assessed for a violation of certain electronic filing requirements.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Separation of Committee Disbanding*— Under current law, the Election Division has not been required to contact a statewide office or state legislative committee prior to disbandment. Under the bill, the Election Division would be required to do so. Unless, the Election Division is already contacting these committees, then the Division’s workload may increase as a result of this provision.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Civil Penalties for State Election Violations*— Revenues from civil penalties levied against a campaign committee for violations of current election provisions may increase as a result of this provision. All “may” provisions giving latitude to the Commission to levy civil penalties would be replaced with a “shall” provision requiring the Commission to assess a civil penalty when the Commission has determined a violation has occurred. Under the bill, all civil penalties levied would be at their statutory maximum. Civil penalties levied by the Commission are deposited into the Campaign Finance Enforcement Account.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Commission, Election Division, Treasurer of State.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.