

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-253

AN ACT CONCERNING FOREIGN POLITICAL SPENDING.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

This bill creates a ban on foreign political spending on state elections and referenda, and results in the effects outlined below.

**Section 2** expands an existing class D felony for knowingly and willfully engaging in illegal campaign finance practices, which results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300<sup>1</sup> while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800<sup>2</sup> each year for adults and

<sup>1</sup>Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

<sup>2</sup>Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

\$1,000 each year for juveniles. Since FY 14, there have been five similar violations. Few, if any, future violations are expected.

**Sections 3-5** define foreign campaign expenditures as "illegal campaign finance practices" and imposes a penalty of \$2,000 or double the illegal contribution whichever is greater resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state.

These sections also stipulate that reports to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) must be closed within one year of opening or be dismissed. This is expected to be completed with existing resources.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the size and number of violations, and penalties imposed.