

Fiscal Analysis

CAMPAIGN PUBLIC DEBATES



Bill/Sponsor **HOUSE BILL 4290 (H-2), Rep. Larry Julian**

House Committee Local Government and Urban Policy

Analysis

Summary

House Bill 4290 would amend the Michigan Campaign Finance Act to require candidates who receive money from the State Campaign Fund and whose name is eligible to appear on the primary election ballot to participate in public debates. It details when, where and in what format the debates will be held. It also states that a candidate will be personally liable to return state funding after a debate they failed to participate in.

Fiscal Impact

The bill does not specify who will pay for the costs of the debates. Currently the State Campaign Fund does not pay the costs of candidate debates. However, under this bill a candidate who does not participate in a public debate will be required to return the amount he or she received from the State Campaign Fund for that election. Unused State Campaign Funds lapse to the General Fund. The bill may have a positive revenue impact to the State of Michigan due to funds being returned to the State Campaign Fund by candidates not participating in debates. There is no fiscal impact to local units of government.

Analyst(s)

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