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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/28/11

SPONSOR Feldman LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Conservancy District Campaign Reporting Act SB 312

ANALYST Aledo

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$24.0		\$25.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund
		\$0.1	\$1.0	\$2.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 312 creates a new section in the Election Chapter which requires campaign contribution reporting and sets contribution limits in conservancy district elections.

The bill requires the submission of electronic campaign reports by candidates four (4) times a year. The contents of these reports would be identical to what is required of reports under the Campaign Reporting Act. The fines would be equal as well with the exception that any funds collected as a result of late penalties would be deposited into the general fund for credit to the current school fund.

The bill also includes civil and criminal penalties for violations of the Conservancy District Campaign Reporting Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State indicates that an enhancement to the Campaign Finance Information

System would be necessary to comply with the reporting requirements outlined in the bill. The system enhancement is estimated to cost approximately \$24,000. This would be expected to affect less than 20 candidates for the conservancy districts affected. The yearly maintenance cost of the enhancement module would be approximately \$1,000 per year.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the SOS, necessary enhancements to the system may not be completed by August 1, 2011 based upon current discussions with the contractor.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Unlike the Campaign Reporting Act, this legislation does not define “person”, nor clarify whether a person includes or excludes a political action committee.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Conservancy districts elections will continue not to have any campaign reporting requirements or contribution limits.

MCA/bym