

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 1290

SHORT TITLE: Election Board Conduct

SPONSOR(S): Senators Clodfelter and Gulley

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>
REVENUES		None			
EXPENDITURES		None			
POSITIONS:	0				
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: State Board of Elections					
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001					

BILL SUMMARY: The bill would prohibit members of county, municipal, and State boards of elections from making public statements supporting or opposing the nomination or election of candidates on the ballot within the territory covered by the board. The same would apply for statements by board members supporting or opposing the passage of referendum proposals. A violation would be grounds for removal from the board.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The bill would prohibit boards of elections members from making public statements supporting or opposing the nomination or election of candidates or the passage of referendum proposals on the ballot within the territory covered by the board. Violations would be grounds for removal from the respective board and alleged violations would require some level of inquiry or investigation by the State Board of Elections.

The State Board of Elections (Board) is responsible for enforcing the election laws. To this end, it hears complaints arising from public concerns regarding the conduct of local boards or local board members. It also investigates, when necessary or advisable, the administration of election

laws. Thus, inquiries or investigations that may arise from violations of the provisions of this bill are part of the existing duties of the Board.

The Board estimates that investigations of violations of this bill will not significantly increase its workload and can be performed by the existing staff. The Board notes, however, that in extreme cases the Board may be required to meet to discuss a complaint. When the Board is required to meet, the cost is approximately \$1,200.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

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DATE: May 18, 2000



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