

Legislative Analysis



CAMPAIGN FINANCE: ALLOW LATE FILING FEE PAYMENT FROM COMMITTEE FUNDS

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House Bill 4479

Sponsor: Rep. Andy Schor

Committee: Elections and Ethics

Complete to 5-10-13

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4479 AS INTRODUCED 3-19-13

House Bill 4479 would amend the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCL 169.235) to allow the payment of a late filing fee assessed against an overdue annual statement to be paid from committee funds. A more detailed description follows.

Now under the law, the committee, candidate, treasurer, or person designated as responsible for report-filing on behalf of all candidate committees for state elective offices or judicial offices is assessed a late filing fee if a report is not filed in a timely manner. If the committee had raised \$10,000 or less in the previous two years, then the late filing fee is \$25 for each business day the campaign statement remains unfiled, but the late fee cannot exceed \$500. If the committee had raised more than \$10,000 during the previous two years, then the late filing fee is \$50 for each business day the campaign statement remains unfiled, but it cannot exceed \$1,000. House Bill 4479 would retain these provisions.

In addition, the law now specifies that *"the late filing fee assessed under this subsection shall be paid by the candidate, and the candidate shall not use committee funds to pay that fee."* House Bill 4479 would eliminate this provision.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be no significant fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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