

Legislative Analysis



INCUMBENT JUDGE AND JUSTICE CAMPAIGN FINANCE STATEMENTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bills 4596 & 4597 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons
Committee: Elections
Complete to 5-19-15

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

The bills would amend two sections of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act to assume automatic compliance with a provision of the law that allows the campaign treasurers of incumbent judges or justices (both elected and appointed) to file a written statement that indicates a judge's campaign committee does not expect to receive or spend more than \$1,000 for an election.

Now under the law, when filing a statement of organization, a campaign committee (other than an independent committee, a political committee, or a political party committee) may indicate in a written statement, signed by the committee treasurer, that the committee does not expect to receive or spend more than \$1,000 (for each election). If more money is spent, campaign finance reporting requirements apply.

Under the bills, the campaign treasurer of an incumbent judge or justice would not be required to file this written statement, but the statement would be considered to have been filed. The two bills amend separate sections of the Campaign Finance Act and are tie-barred, meaning neither can take effect unless both are enacted.

MCL 169.224 & 169.233

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills would not have a fiscal impact on state or local government.

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