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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>HB297</u>	Sponsor	<u>Representative Smith & Senator Candelaria</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.206481.1SA</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HLELC</u>
Short Title	<u>School District Campaign Reporting Dates</u>		
Analyst	<u>Force</u>	Original Date	<u>2/13/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 297 (HB297) proposes to amend the School District Campaign Reporting Act in two respects. First, the definition of “election cycle” would be expanded so that the campaign cycle extends from 30 days after an election to 30 days following the subsequent election day for the same office; currently, the election cycle ends precisely on the date of the subsequent election day for the same office. Second, the bill proposes to change the required reporting date from the second Monday in April to two other dates, the 21st day before an election, and the 30th day following an election.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB297 does not contain an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The School District Campaign Reporting Act was originally enacted in 2013. Initially, the election cycle was defined so it ended immediately after the date of the election, meaning that some candidates for office may not report all expenditures and contributions for their campaigns. By extending the election cycle for 30 days, all candidates for school boards in districts with enrollments of 12,000 students, or candidates for community college boards, would be required to report contributions and expenditures after the actual election.

Originally, candidates were only required to file a report in April, approximately two months after the election occurred. As noted by the Secretary of State (SOS), requiring disclosure both before and after the election will render the reports more relevant and transparent.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SOS indicates it would modify outreach materials for candidates to inform them of the additional reporting requirements.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to HB10, Public Accountability Act (Identical to SB97)

Relates to HB104, Local Election Act, which proposes the same changes to the same statutes, among others

Relates to HB119, Prohibition Period for Candidate Contribution

Relates to HB174, Local Election Act, which proposes the same changes to the same statutes, among others

Relates to SB72, Public Accountability Act

Relates to SB96, Campaign Finance Fixes

Relates to SB97, Public Financing of Campaign Fixes (Identical to HB10)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Secretary of State

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