Joint Legislative Ethics Committee		Main Operating Appropriations Bill H.B. 96	
Executive	As Passed By House	As Reported By Senate Finance	
JLECD1 Legislative Ethics Committee			
Section: 321.20	Section: 321.20	Section: 321.20	
Reappropriates the certified available balance of GRF ALI 028321, Legislative Ethics Committee, at the end of FY 2025 and FY 2026 to FY 2026 and FY 2027, respectively.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.	

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee		Main Operating Appropriations Bill H.B. 96	
Executive	As Passed By House	As Reported By Senate Finance	
ELCCD3 Campaign finance law			
		R.C. 102.08, (enacted), 3517.01, 3517.08, 3517.10, 3517.102, 3517.105, 3517.106, 3517.107, 3517.1010 (enacted), 3517.1011, 3517.121, 3517.13, 3517.152 (3517.14), 3517.992 (3517.99), 3599.03, 3921.22, 4123.442, 4503.03; Section 525.50	
No provision.	No provision.	Eliminates prohibitions against a corporation or labor organization making an independent expenditure regarding a candidate.	
No provision.	No provision.	Eliminates dollar limits on contributions to entities that make only independent expenditures.	
No provision.	No provision.	Prohibits a political action committee (PAC) or political contributing entity (PCE) that accepts a contribution from a corporation or labor organization from then making a contribution to any entity other than one that makes only independent expenditures.	

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No provision.	No provision.	Requires a corporation or labor organization that makes independent expenditures to report its expenditures in the same manner as other political entities by doing all of the following:  - Expanding and clarifying the definition of a PCE to include any entity that makes contributions or expenditures and that is not an individual, a campaign committee, a political party, a legislative campaign fund, or a PAC.  - Allowing an unincorporated business to continue to make contributions in the names of its individual partners, owners, or members, instead of classifying the entity as a PCE.  - Changing the definition of an independent expenditure to include any use of funds or anything of value for that purpose, meaning that a PCE that uses its own money instead of contributions to fund an independent expenditure must report the expenditure.  - Clarifying that "independent expenditure" includes expenditures concerning ballot issues, as well as expenditures concerning candidates.  - Making clear that all PCEs must comply with the continuing law that requires entities that engage in political advertising to report the expenditure and to identify themselves in the advertisement as the funding source.	
No provision.	No provision.	Allows a person who is not a U.S. citizen or national, but is a lawful permanent U.S. resident (green card holder), to make campaign contributions, expenditures, and independent expenditures for state and local candidates, but not ballot issues.	

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee	Main Operating Appropriations Bill H.B. 96	
Executive	As Passed By House	As Reported By Senate Finance
ELCCD2 Abolish Ohio Elections Commission		
	R.C. 109.02, 145.055, 145.99, 742.044, 742.99, 3307.074, 3307.99, 3309.074, 3309.99, 3501.05, 3501.11, 3513.04, 3513.05, 3513.10, 3513.261, 3517.01, 3517.08, 3517.081, 3517.102, 3517.109, 3517.1012, 3517.11, 3517.121, 3517.13, 3517.153 (3517.14), 3517.15, 3517.16, 3517.155 (3517.17), 3517.993 (3517.18), 3517.20, 3517.21, 3517.22, 3517.23, 3517.991 (reenacted), 3517.992 (3517.99), 5505.046, 5505.99, Section 525.50; Repealed: 3517.14, 3517.151, 3517.152, 3517.154, 3517.156, 3517.157, 3517.99, 3517.991	R.C. 109.02, 111.29 (enacted), 145.054, 145.055, 145.99, 742.043, 742.044, 742.99, 3307.073, 3307.074, 3307.99, 3309.073, 3309.074, 3309.99, 3501.05, 3501.11, 3513.04, 3513.05, 3513.10, 3513.261, 3517.01, 3517.08, 3517.081, 3517.102, 3517.109, 3517.1012, 3517.11, 3517.121, 3517.13, 3517.152 (3517.14), 3517.153 (3517.15), 3517.154 (3517.16), 3517.155 (3517.17), 3517.157 (3517.18), 3517.993 (3517.171), 3517.20, 3517.21, 3517.22, 3517.23, 3517.991 (reenacted), 3517.992 (3517.99), 5505.045, 5505.046, 5505.99, Repealed: 3517.14, 3517.151, 3517.152, 3517.154, 3517.156, 3517.157, 3517.99, 3517.991; Section 395.10, 525.50
No provision.	Abolishes ELC as of January 1, 2026. Requires ELC, between the bill's effective date and January 1, 2026, to continue to hear the matters pending before it based on the current law requirements, but prohibits any new complaints from being filed with ELC during that time. Requires, instead, that complaints be filed with SOS or the board of elections, as applicable.	Same as the House, but replaces the ELC with a five-member Ohio Election Integrity Commission, to be appointed by SOS and the leaders of the General Assembly. Sets the qualifications, terms of office, compensation of the members of the new Commission, and process for removing a member for cause.
No provision.	No provision.	Requires the SOS to provide staff for the Ohio Election Integrity Commission. Transfers ELC's current staff to SOS instead of to the new Commission.
No provision.	Requires complaints regarding violations of the Campaign Finance Law to be heard by a hearing officer appointed by SOS or to be heard by a board of elections, depending on the violation, before any prosecution may commence.	Replaces the House provision with one that gives the new Commission jurisdiction over the same campaign finance related offenses as ELC currently has, plus certain voting- and petition-related offenses. Requires all complaints to be filed with SOS, reviewed and heard by an SOS attorney, and disposed of by SOS, except in the case of a conflict of interest.
No provision.	No provision.	Requires an attorney appointed by the new Commission to hear the matter if the subject of the complaint objects to SOS's determination within 14 days.

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Executive	As Passed By House	As Reported By Senate Finance	
No provision.	Changes several procedural requirements regarding administrative hearings of those complaints and the prosecutor to whom a violation may be referred, but generally retains the current administrative and criminal penalties.	Same as the House but allows SOS or the new Commission to dispose of a complaint as follows: (1) Find no violation and, if applicable, find the complaint frivolous; (2) find a violation and impose a fine of up to \$1,000 per occurrence; and (3) find a significant violation or repeated violations and refer the matter for prosecution.	
No provision.	Transfers any matters pending before ELC as of January 1, 2026, to SOS or a board of elections (BOEs), as applicable, for disposition under the amendment.	Same as the House, but to only the SOS and not BOEs.	
No provision.	Allows SOS to issue advisory opinions regarding the Campaign Finance Law and specifies that existing ELC opinions are considered SOS opinions unless and until they are amended or rescinded.	Replaces the House provision with one that instead transfers the authority to issue advisory opinions from the ELC to the Ohio Election Integrity Commission and additionally requires the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee to issue advisory opinions for campaign finance for General Assembly members and candidates (See ELC 3).	
No provision.	Provides procedures for ELC to wind up its affairs and transfer its records, assets, and liabilities to SOS.	Same as the House.	
No provision.	Removes all candidate filing fees credited to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (see ELCCD1).	Replaces the House provision with one that transfers all candidate filing fees credited to the Ohio Elections Commission Fund to the Ohio Election Integrity Commission Fund (Fund 5CS1) (see ELCCD1).	
No provision.	Transfers the cash balance of the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20) to the Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code Filing Fund (Fund 5990) on January 1, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter. Abolishes Fund 4P20 after the transfer is complete.	Same as the House, however transfers the cash balance of the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20) to the Ohio Election Integrity Commission Fund (Fund 5CS1) on January 1, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter.	
No provision.	Cancels any existing encumbrances against Fund 4P20 ALI 051601, Operating Support, and reestablishes them against Fund 5990 ALI 050630, Elections Support Supplement, used by SOS. Appropriates the reestablished encumbrance amounts.	Same as the House, but instead reestablishes existing encumbrances against Fund 5CS1 ALI 050604, Ohio Election Integrity Commission, used by SOS.	

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Executive	As Passed By House	As Reported By Senate Finance
No provision.	No provision.	Requires SOS to refer all past due fines imposed by ELC, SOS, or the new Commission to AGO for collection.
	Fiscal effect: County Boards of Elections and the SOS will incur costs previously incurred by the ELC for complaints regarding violations of Campaign Finance Law.	Fiscal effect: The SOS will incur costs previously incurred by the ELC for complaints regarding violations of Campaign Finance Law. The bill appropriates \$250,000 in FY 2026 to SOS's Fund 5CS1 ALI 050604,Ohio Election Integrity Commission, to cover operating expenses.