

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5778 E S SB	Title: Employer political speech
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2023-25		2025-27		2027-29	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available					
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other						
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Fiscal note not available											
Office of Financial Management	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Labor and Industries	Fiscal note not available											
SWF Statewide Fiscal Note - OFM	Fiscal note not available											
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Office of Financial Management	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Labor and Industries	Fiscal note not available								
SWF Statewide Fiscal Note - OFM	Fiscal note not available								
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Fiscal note not available								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Gaius Horton, OFM	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date Published: Preliminary 3/ 5/2024
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5778 E S SB	Title: Employer political speech	Agency: 105-Office of Financial Management
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/01/2024
Agency Preparation: Kathy Cody	Phone: (360) 480-7237	Date: 03/04/2024
Agency Approval: Jamie Langford	Phone: 360-902-0422	Date: 03/04/2024
OFM Review: Val Terre	Phone: (360) 280-3073	Date: 03/04/2024

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

ESSB 5778 outlines criteria for employees who may choose not to attend or participate in a meeting where the primary purpose of the meeting is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters.

OFM assumes this bill will not impact the State Human Resources Program and therefore will not have a fiscal impact.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 5778 E S SB

Title: Employer political speech

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

Cities: Costs to post employee rights notices.

Counties: Same as above.

Special Districts: Same as above.

Specific jurisdictions only:

Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

No fiscal impacts.

Expenditures represent one-time costs:

Legislation provides local option:

Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: Costs to post notices will vary by jurisdiction.

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 03/04/2024
Leg. Committee Contact:	Phone:	Date: 03/01/2024
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 03/04/2024
OFM Review: Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 03/05/2024

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PRIOR VERSION OF THE BILL:

The engrossed substitute changes the parameters of speech that is still allowed from employers. These changes remove the concerns about liability and conducting official business that local governments had about the previous version.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT VERSION OF THE BILL:

Sec. 2 adds a new section to RCW 49.44. No employer may subject or threaten to subject any employee to discipline or discharge on account of the employee's refusal to:

- Attend or participate in an employer-sponsored meeting with the employer or its agent, representative, or designee, the primary purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters; or
- Listen to speech or view communications, including electronic communications, the primary purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters.

This section does not:

- Prohibit an employer communicating to its employees any information that the employer is required by law to communicate, but only to the extent of the legal requirement;
- Limit the rights of an employer to offer meetings, forums, or other communications about religious or political matters for which attendance or participation is strictly voluntary;
- Limit the rights of an employer or its agent, representative, or designee from communicating to its employees any information, or requiring employee attendance at a meeting or other event, that is necessary for the employees to perform their lawfully required job duties; or
- Prohibit an employer or its agent, representative, or designee from requiring its employees to attend any training intended to reduce and prevent workplace harassment or discrimination.

The provisions of this section do not apply to a religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution, or society that is exempt from the requirements of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

An employer subject to this section must post a notice of employee rights under this section in a place normally reserved for employment-related notices and in a place commonly frequented by employees.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would result in indeterminate costs for cities, counties, and special districts.

There are 1,375 special purpose districts which have independent governing bodies, excluding school districts, in Washington State, according to the Municipal Research and Services Center. The state has 281 cities and 39 counties.

The Local Government Fiscal Note Program assumes that each of these bodies would see costs associated with posting notices about employee rights and training employees and elected officials on the new law. As one example, if reviewing and posting a notice required one hour of time from a city or county administrator, and equivalent position at each special purpose district, the costs would total \$179,670. The average hourly cost for a city and county administrator, with benefits, is approximately \$106 per hour, according to the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Salary and Benefit Survey for 2023. (1,695 total governing bodies x \$106/hour = \$179,670.)

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would have no revenue impacts for local governments.

SOURCES:

Association of Washington Cities

Washington State Association of Counties

Municipal Research and Services Center