

EXECUTIVE AGENCY
FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: April 4, 2017

Agency Submitting: Nevada Commission on Ethics

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Fiscal Year 2017-18	Fiscal Year 2018-19	Effect on Future Biennia
Sections 1-2 (Expense)				
Total	0	0	0	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

This bill amends NRS 281A to prohibit a public officer or employee from using official government stationary to engage in certain political endorsements, including: 1) supporting or opposing a candidate, political action committee, committee sponsored by a political party or a ballot question; or 2) soliciting contributions for any political purpose. Under current law, the Nevada Commission on Ethics provides advisory opinions and enforces allegations of violations of NRS 281A (Ethics in Government Law), including whether the use of government resources for significant personal reasons constitutes a violation of the law, which may include use of government stationary for political purposes. This bill establishes that government stationary constitutes government property and any such use of government stationary for political purposes is contrary to law. Currently, the Commission evaluates such conduct on a case-by-case basis. No data is provided to or available from the Commission that this type of conduct is widespread problem or would prompt significant additional work for the Commission. Alleged violations could prompt additional complaints, but it is entirely speculative to count the number of complaints the Commission might receive or the number of instances of such conduct. Within the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years, the Commission has received 1-3 cases regarding use of government letterhead for personal and/or political purposes and therefore a reasonable projection may be that the Commission could see minimal complaint cases to address in this area, and perhaps even less cases to the extent the law makes clear that this conduct would be a violation.

Name Yvonne M. Nevarez-Goodson

Title Executive Director

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FINANCE COMMENTS

Date Wednesday, March 29, 2017

The agency's response appears reasonable.

Name Paul Nicks

Title Executive Budget Officer