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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 441
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 441's Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stewart and A. Mathews

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Robert Meeker, Senior Budget Analyst

The bill is expected to have a minimal fiscal effect on the state and local subdivisions. Under current law, an action for libel or slander must be commenced within one year after a cause of action accrues. The bill increases the limitation period from one year to four years and specifies that the cause of action starts from the publication of the libelous material or when the slanderous words are spoken, respectively, regardless of when the aggrieved person became aware, or should have become aware, of the libel or slander. For an action for libel, each publication of the alleged libelous material gives rise to a new limitations period. The bill may increase the number of civil actions filed with local courts, minimally increasing the workload of the courts, if additional cases are filed for libel or slander that would not have been filed under the current limitation period. Any increase in cases and resultant workload will be absorbed using existing staff and appropriated resources and offset in part by revenues in the form of court costs and fees.