152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 261**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Michael Smith**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act establishes the Office of Legislative Ethics (OLE) within the General Assembly to receive complaints, investigate, and report on events of current and former members of the General Assembly that occur during a member's term of office.

3. The OLE will consist of an appointed five-member board made up of former elected officials, attorneys and law professors, and other experts with experience in legislative ethics. Board members will serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during performance of board duties. Board meetings will be held monthly or as often as necessary.

4. The OLE board will appoint and determine compensation of a full-time OLE Executive Director, who shall be an attorney and serve as the OLE's lead investigator. The Executive Director is authorized to hire necessary staff as appropriations permit.
    a. Personnel Costs: 1.0 FTE, Deputy Attorney General V (Executive Director), 1.0 FTE, Paralegal III, and 1.0 FTE, Administrative Specialist III, are assumed to be necessary upon implementation. Overall personnel costs, including other employment costs at a rate of 32.25%, are estimated at $322,142 annually.
    b. Other Operating Costs: minimum supplies, contractual services, and board expenditure reimbursement costs are estimated at $8,850 annually.
    c. One-time Costs: website and tracking system, workstations, computers, and necessary equipment for the two new employees are estimated at $121,000.

5. First year personnel costs are assumed at nine (9) months of funding and annualized in future years.

6. Overall costs are assumed to increase at a rate of 2% annually.

Cost:

	Ongoing	**One-Time**
Fiscal Year 2025:	$250,456	$121,000
Fiscal Year 2026:	$337,612	
Fiscal Year 2027:	$344,364	

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Office of the Controller General