



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	HOUSE BILL NO. 397
SPONSOR:	Representative Shupe
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE STATE TREASURER REPORTING OF STATE PAYMENTS FOR STATE PUBLIC OFFICER TRAVEL-RELATED EXPENSES.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act requires the State Treasurer to prepare an annual report that itemizes all travel, lodging, transportation, and similar expenses paid for by the State for all public officers.
3. According to the 2025 Annual Report of the State of Delaware Public Integrity Commission, it received 373 financial disclosures from those who are considered "public officers" in 29 Del. C. § 5812(n)(1). While candidates for any state office must also file, the number of filers per year varies depending on the number of statewide elections. Since the vast majority of elections in Delaware for state offices occurred in 2024 and will occur again in 2026, for purposes of this fiscal projection, it is assumed that the State Treasurer would be responsible for preparing a report for over 370 individuals qualified as a "public officer" annually.
4. The Office of the State Treasurer (OST) estimates that due to the volume of potential travel for public officers, and the amount of transactions it would need to query and review for accuracy, the OST would need casual/seasonal staff to coordinate a continual review of the state's accounting system, perform the coordination efforts associated with requesting and reviewing of travel records from various state agencies and branches so that it may accurately compile an itemized public report of all travel related expenses paid for by the State for public officers annually. The Fiscal Year 2027 costs are estimated at \$32,298, and one-time costs are estimated at \$7,300 and are as follows:
 - a. Recurring Costs – \$32,298
 1. \$30,718 in the Fiscal Year 2027 Personnel Costs (9 months of funding), including OECs at 9.22%, for a casual/seasonal Accounting & Auditing position.
 2. \$1,580 for projected contractual service needs relating to the Department of Technology and Information SEUS (Secure End User Services) costs and the Department of Human Resources eSTAR timekeeping costs, and supplies and materials needs relating to the establishment of the position.
 - b. One-Time Costs – \$7,300 for computer and technology equipment, and office furniture startup costs for the position.
5. All Fiscal Year 2027 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation factor has been included to account for projected increases in hourly rates and OECs.

Cost:

	<u>Operating/Recurring</u>	<u>One-Time</u>
Fiscal Year 2027:	\$32,298	\$7,300
Fiscal Year 2028:	\$43,357	
Fiscal Year 2029:	\$44,192	