

S.F. No. 2051 – Various Campaign Finance and Caucus Participation Modifications (As amended by the A-1 amendment)

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Section 1 [Lobbyist] amends the definition of lobbyist to refer to attempting to influence official actions of a political subdivision, instead of metropolitan governmental units.

Section 2 [Political party unit or party unit] in the A-1 amendment amends the definition of “political party unit” or “party unit” for purposes of campaign finance laws. Strikes specific types of party organizations within various levels of government and inserts a reference to party organizations designated by the political party chair.

Section 2 [Content] changes “metropolitan governmental unit” to “political subdivision” in the section on lobbyist reports.

Section 3 [Principal reports] changes “metropolitan governmental unit” to “political subdivision” in the section on principal reports.

Section 4 [Lobbyist report] changes “metropolitan governmental unit” to “political subdivision” in the section on lobbyist reports.

Section 5 [Contingent fees prohibited] changes “metropolitan governmental unit” to “political subdivision” in the section on prohibiting contingent fees.

Section 6 [Definitions] changes “metropolitan governmental unit” to “political subdivision” in the section on the gift ban.

Section 7 [Appropriation] is deleted and replaced by **section 7 in the A-1 amendment**.

Section 7 [Exceptions] in the A-1 amendment amends the law that governs when expenditures by one or more party units are not considered contributions to a candidate. Strikes the requirement that if multiple party units are acting together that at least one party unit be the state committee or a party organization within a congressional district, county, or legislative district.

Section 8 [Appropriations] in the A-1 amendment appropriates money to the Campaign Finance Board for rulemaking related to the lobbying changes and to conduct audits.

Section 9 [Repealer] in the A-1 amendment repeals the statute that governs who may participate in a party caucus.

Background. Minn. Stat. §10A.01 provides definitions for “metropolitan governmental unit” and “political subdivision.”

“Metropolitan governmental unit” means the seven metropolitan area counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties); a regional railroad authority established by one of the seven metropolitan area counties; a city with a population of more than 50,000 in the seven-county metro area; the Metropolitan Council; the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission; the Metropolitan Airports Commission; or the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.

“Political subdivision” means the Metropolitan Council; the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission; the Metropolitan Airports Commission; the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission; a county; a city; a town; a school district; municipal corporation; or political subdivision.