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S.F. No. 4729 – Campaign Finance & Election Modifications (as amended by the A2 Amendment)

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Section 1 [§10A.20, subd. 12; Failure to file; late fees; penalty] allows the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“Board”) to impose a late filing fee on a candidate, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit that fails to file a required report that is due January 31. For other reports where the total expenditures or disbursements that occurred during the reporting period exceeds \$25,000, the board may impose an additional late filing fee of up to two percent of the amount of the expenditures or disbursements. Allows the Board to impose escalating fees if late filing fees are imposed multiple times during a period of four years. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

Section 2 [§10A.201, subd. 3; Targeted to the relevant electorate] merges the definitions of “can be received by 10,000 or more individuals” and “targeted to the relevant electorate” in the section on electioneering communication. Adds email blasts, text blasts, telephone banks, and paid digital ads or communications to the types of communications that may be subject to the electioneering communications requirements. This section is effective January 1, 2025.

Section 3 [§10A.201, subd. 4; Direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications] amends the definition of “direct costs of producing or airing electioneering communications” to include costs to access any platform used to disseminate messages digitally online or by electronic means to a person’s phone or other personal device. This section is effective January 1, 2025.

Section 4 [§10A.201, subd. 6; Electioneering communication] amends the definition of “electioneering communication” to include references to digital communications. This section is effective January 1, 2025.

Section 5 [§10A.201, subd. 9; Publicly distributed] amends the definition of “publicly distributed” in the electioneering communications section to include dissemination in digital format

online or by other electronic means to a person's phone or other personal device. This section is effective January 1, 2025.

Section 6 [§10A.27, subd. 17; Penalty] allows the Board to impose late filing fees related to reports and statements related to contributions or use of general treasury money. The late filing fee is in addition to the civil penalty imposed by current law. The Board must mail notice that the individual or association may be subject to a civil penalty for failure to file the statement. Strikes the language that allowed the penalty to go above the cap in instances where the violation was intentional. Allows the Board to impose escalating fees if late filing fees are imposed multiple times during a period of four years. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

Section 6 from the A2 amendment [§10a.202, subd. 1; Reports required] adds a reference to political funds and political party units in the section requiring electioneering communication statements and reports.

Section 7 [§200.02, subd. 7; Major political party] amends the definition of "major political party" by striking the five percent threshold that applied to general elections held on or before November 8, 2022, and strikes a reference to the eight percent threshold applying at general elections held on or after November 7, 2024. This section is effective August 1, 2024.

Section 8 [Repealer] repeals Minn. Stat. §10A.201, "targeted to the relevant electorate," which is merged with existing language in section 2. This section is effective January 1, 2025.