



S.F. No. 1996 – Campaign Finance Provisions

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Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 16a; Expressly advocates] changes the phrase “expressly advocating” to “expressly advocates” in the definition of the term.

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 18; Independent expenditure] amends the definition of “independent expenditure” to include expenditures that are not coordinated with a candidate and that promote, support, attack, or oppose the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or local candidate, regardless of whether the expenditure expressly advocates for or against a candidate. The “express advocacy” standard in current law remains, but the statute is rearranged so it appears at a different place in the statute.

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 10A.09, subd. 1; Time for filing] amends the time for filing statements of economic interest statements for candidates. Candidates must file within 14 days of the close of the filing period, instead of 14 days after filing an affidavit of candidacy. This provides a uniform deadline for candidate statements of economic interest.

Section 4 [Minn. Stat. 10A.175, subd. 5a; Disbursement] defines “disbursement” for purposes of the statutes on coordinated expenditures.

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 10A.176; Coordinated expenditures] amends the statute on coordinated expenditures.

Subdivision 1 [Definition; scope] provides that a disbursement is a coordinated expenditure and is not independent when it satisfies at least one of the content standards in subdivision 1a and at least one of the conduct standards in subdivisions 2-7.

Subdivision 1a [Content standards] is a new subdivision that provides content standards for coordinated expenditures. A disbursement for any of the following content satisfies the content standard if it is: a communication expressly advocating for the election or defeat of the candidate; a communication that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the nomination, election, or defeat of the clearly identified candidate; or is an electioneering communication.

Subdivisions 2-6 make formatting changes to the existing law regarding coordinated expenditures. Replaces “expenditure” with “disbursement.”

Subdivision 7 [Conduct standard; candidate's participation] makes formatting changes to existing law and changes “expenditure” to “disbursement.” A disbursement satisfies the conduct standards of this subdivision if the disbursement is materially consistent with instructions or directions from a candidate regarding the making of the disbursements, regardless of whether the instructions or directions are available publicly. There are factors the board must consider when determining whether a disbursement is consistent with instructions or directions from a candidate. These types of disbursements or the communications that result from the disbursements are often called “redboxing.”

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 10A.177; Noncoordinated Disbursements] amends the law on what actions do not, taken alone, establish a coordinated disbursement. Throughout, the “expenditure” is replaced by “disbursement.” A candidate asking a spender not to make a disbursement for an electioneering communication that references the candidate or the candidate’s opponent is not, by itself, a coordinated disbursement. Clarifies that the clause regarding publicly available information does not apply to information providing instructions or directions to voters as described in section 7, subdivision 7 (i.e. redboxing). Amends how news and broadcast publications are described to include additional types of media. Provides for what happens if a facility is owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate.

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 10A.20, subd. 5a; Report on personal contributions] requires a candidate for constitutional or legislative office to report to the board the next business day when they make a contribution or loan to their own campaign committee that exceeds the contribution limit.

Section 8 [Minn. Stat. 10A.201, subd. 6; Electioneering communication] amends the timeline for electioneering communication. Under the bill, the period for electioneering communications is after the start of the absentee voting period before the primary election and continues through the date of the general election. Under current law, the period is 30 days before the primary election and ends on the primary election and begins again 60 days before the general election and ends on the general election.

Section 9 [Minn. Stat. 10A.202, subd. 4; Disclaimer required] amends the cross reference for electioneering communications disclaimer. The new cross-reference is to a new subdivision that provides a specific disclaimer just for electioneering communications.

Section 10 [Minn. Stat. 211A.02, subd. 1; When and where filed by committees or candidates] specifies that certain local candidate reports are only required in a year in which the candidate is on the ballot (and not every year). Deletes unnecessary language.

Section 11 [Minn. Stat. 211A.02, subd. 2; Information required] requires a local candidate or committee report to include an email address. If the person responsible for filing the report does not have an email address, the person must include an attestation to that effect.

Section 12 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 1; Campaign material] amends requirements for disclaimers on campaign material. Except for audio or video media, in the case of a candidate’s or committee’s website or social media page, the disclaimer requirements are satisfied when the disclaimer appears once on the home page. Changes “broadcast media” to “audio or video media.”

Section 13 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 2; Independent expenditures] specifies that the form of a disclaimer for independent expenditures in paragraph (a) applies to everything except audio or

video media independent expenditures, which are covered by paragraph (b). Changes the term “broadcast media” to “audio or video media.”

Section 14 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 2a; Electioneering communications] provides disclaimers for electioneering communications. Paragraph (b) applies to audio or video media electioneering communications. Paragraph (a) applies to all other electioneering communications.

Section 15 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 3; Material that does not need a disclaimer] amends the law on material that does not need a disclaimer. Provides that electronic communications for which it would be technologically infeasible to include a disclaimer does not need to include a disclaimer. Instead, it must include the name of the person who paid for the communication and a link to an online page that includes only the disclaimer. This replaces a current law that refers to online banner ads and other similar electronic communications and required a link to a page with a disclaimer.

Section 16 [Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 5; Font size] amends the law on font size for outdoor signs, websites, or social media pages. Paragraph (a) is the default rule for disclaimer and provides that disclaimers must be in 8-point font or larger (which is the current law standard) and must be in a sufficient color contrast to be reasonably legible. Paragraph (b) sets the standard for outdoor signs, which is a height of at least five percent of the vertical height of the sign and with sufficient color contrast to be reasonably legible. Paragraph (c) sets the standard for websites and social media, which is that the font must be displayed large enough and with sufficient color contrast to be reasonably legible. Paragraph (b) is effective on January 1, 2026.

Section 17 [Repealer] paragraph (a) repeals Minn. Stat. 211B.04, subd. 4, which says that the disclaimer requirements of that section are satisfied for an entire website or social media page when the disclaimer appears once on the home page of the site.

Paragraph (b) repeals a newly enacted rule on disclaimers on broadcast media and social media platforms. The rule specified that Minn. Stat. 211B.04 does not apply to the following communications that link directly to an online page that includes a disclaimer if the communication is made by or on behalf of a candidate, campaign committee, political committee, political fund, political party unit, or person who has made an electioneering communication: text, image, video, or audio disseminated via a social media platform; a text or multimedia message disseminated only to phone numbers; text, images, video, or audio disseminated using an application accessed primarily by mobile phone, excluding email messages, phone calls, and voicemail messages; and paid electronic ads disseminated via the internet by a third party, including banner ads.



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