



S.F. No. 2562 – Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board Recommendations

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Section 1 [10A.01, subd. 16c; Expert witness] provides a definition of “expert witness” for purposes of chapter 10A.

Section 2 [10A.01, subd. 21; Lobbyist] amends the definition of lobbyist. The exclusion for nonelected local officials and employees of political subdivisions is amended so that time spent urging others to communicate with public or local officials; monitoring legislative or administrative action; and related research, analysis, and dissemination of information do not count toward the 50-hour threshold. The expert witness exclusion is amended so that an expert witness who communicates with public or local officials, other than the PUC, is excluded if the communication occurs at a public meeting or is made available to the general public.

Section 3 [10A.01, subd. 24; Metropolitan governmental unit] amends the definition of “metropolitan governmental unit” to include a regional railroad authority in the seven-county metro area and to list the metropolitan agencies instead of using a cross reference. Strikes references to the seven metro area counties and cities with a population over 50,000 in the metropolitan area because they are included in the definition of “political subdivision.”

Section 4 [10A.01, subd. 35; Public official] strikes watershed district managers, watershed management organization members, soil and water conservation district supervisors, and county commissioners from the definition of “public official.”

Section 5 [10A.04, subd. 4; Content] requires a lobbyist to report each expert witness that the lobbyist requested to communicate with public or local officials on the lobbyist report. The designated lobbyist must report this information if the expert witness is requested to communicate by the principal or association that the lobbyist represents.

Section 6 [10A.07, sub. 1; Disclosure of potential conflicts] makes a conforming change to section 3. With the change of definition to “metropolitan governmental unit,” some public

officials or local officials would have been excluded from the disclosure of potential conflict of interest law. The changes to this section describe the subset of people are currently subject to this law but would have been excluded by the change in definition of “metropolitan governmental unit.”

Section 7 [10A.08, subd. 1; Disclosure required] requires elected local officials to disclose their representation of clients in certain situations.

Section 8 [10A.09, subd. 1; Time for filing] makes a conforming change to section 3. With the change of definition to “metropolitan governmental unit,” timelines needed to be added to individuals who would have been excluded. Also specifies timelines for filing for soil and water conservation district supervisors, managers of watershed districts, and members of watershed management organizations.

Section 9 [10A.09, subd. 6; Place for filing] specifies that county commissioners, soil and water conservation district supervisors, managers of watershed districts, and members of watershed management organizations file statements of economic interest with the Board.



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