

S.F. No. 9 – Political Contribution Refund Program Modernization (1st Engrossment)

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S.F. 9 establishes an electronic filing system for contributors to file for a political contribution refund from the Department of Revenue. The current process for filing a paper refund request remains in place. Because the Campaign Finance Board (“Board”) and the Department of Revenue work together in this program, modifications are made to statutes for both the Board (sections 1 and 2) and the Department (section 3).

Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 10A.02, subd. 11b; Data privacy related to electronic reporting system] allows the Board to access and use data about the political contribution refund program in the electronic reporting system and to share the data with the commissioner of revenue. The data is classified as nonpublic data and private data on individuals. This section is effective January 1, 2027.

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 10A.322, subd. 4; Refund receipts; penalty] amends the requirements regarding receipts for the political contribution refund program. Instead of providing a supply of paper forms, the Board must make available official refund receipts in an electronic format. Candidates and parties must only issue refund receipts for a contribution of \$10 or more. Each receipt must be in an electronic format and include a unique receipt validation number that allows the commissioner of revenue to verify the information on the receipt with the Board. The party or candidate may provide a printed copy of the receipt to the contributor. Each business day, the Board must provide to the commissioner of revenue a receipt validation report including information about each contribution reported to the Board since the last report. The validation report and receipt validation numbers are nonpublic data and private data on individuals. This section is effective for contributions made after December 31, 2026.

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 290.06, subd. 23; Refund of contributions to political parties and candidates] specifies that the commissioner of revenue (“commissioner”) must not issue a refund that exceeds the maximum refund amounts per calendar year. Allows a person to file a refund claim using an electronic filing system that must be established by the commissioner. As under current law, a person may continue to file a paper claim. The prohibition on filing one claim per year is eliminated. Each claim submitted must be for a minimum of \$10. Strikes language that is no longer necessary because of new language in the bill. This section is effective for contributions made after December 31, 2026.

Section 4 [Appropriation; political contribution refund electronic filing system] makes blank appropriations in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue to establish and implement the required electronic filing system for political contribution refund claims. Establishes a blank base appropriation for fiscal years 2028 and 2029.



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