



S.F. No. 4196 – Campaign Finance Board Enhanced Penalties (2nd Engrossment)

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SF 4196 modifies civil penalties and late fees for campaign finance reports and statements. The bill specifies when a “willful” intent standard applies. In some instances, the bill requires the board to impose penalties that are permissive under current law.

Section 1 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 9b; Campaign finance report] provides a definition of “campaign finance report” for purposes of chapter 10A. A campaign finance report is a report or statement filed Minn. Stat. sections 10A.20 (campaign reports), 10A.202 (electioneering communications reporting requirements), or 10A.323 (affidavits of contributions).

Section 2 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 16d; Enhanced penalty] provides a definition of “enhanced penalty” for chapter 10A. An enhanced penalty is a late fee or civil penalty imposed by the board that applies after a \$25,000 or \$100,000 threshold is exceeded or is determined using a multiplier or percentage.

Section 3 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 26c; Total contributions] provides a definition of “total contributions” for the purposes of chapter 10A.

Section 4 [Minn. Stat. 10A.01, subd. 26d. Total disbursements] provides a definition of “total disbursements” for purposes of chapter 10A.

Section 5 [Minn. Stat. 110A.02, subd. 15; Fees and penalties] prohibits the board from waving any portion of an enhanced penalty. Requires the board to deposit the first \$49,000 in fees and civil penalties collected each fiscal year into the general fund and any additional fees and civil penalties into the general account of the state elections campaign account in the special revenue fund.

Section 6 [Minn. Stat. 110A.025, subd. 2; Penalty for false statements] amends the statute on penalties for false statements in reports or statements filed with the board. Establishes a willful intent standard. Requires the board to impose a civil penalty on a person who violates

the prohibitions on false statements or omissions. Provides penalties for campaign finance reports, with higher penalties for campaign finance reports where more than \$25,000 was willfully false or willfully omitted. The penalties for campaign finance report violations are determined on a formula. For all other reports, the penalty is up to \$3,000. The board may impose on the principal campaign committee or candidate, party unit, political committee, or association that has a political fund that is affiliated with an individual who violated the prohibition on false statements or omissions an additional civil penalty.

Section 7 [Minn. Stat. 10A.025, subd. 3; Record keeping; penalty] requires the board to impose a civil penalty on a person who willfully violates the subdivision on record keeping requirements. For violations related to campaign finance reports, the penalty determined by a formula, with higher penalties where the amount reflected on the missing campaign finance records exceeds \$25,000. For all other violations, the civil penalty is up to \$3,000. The board may impose a separate civil penalty on the principal campaign committee or candidate, party unit, political committee, or association that has a political fund that is affiliated with an individual who violated this subdivision.

Section 8 [Minn. Stat. 10A.025, subd. 4; Changes and corrections] requires the board to impose a civil penalty on a person who willfully fails to report a material change or correction. For campaign finance reports, the penalty is determined by formula, with a higher penalty where the amount of the required change or correction exceeds \$25,000. For all other reports, the penalty is up to \$3,000.

Section 9 [Minn. Stat. 10A.025, subd. 5; Reconciliation information; penalty] requires the board to impose a civil penalty on a person who willfully fails to cooperate with the board to reconcile a report discrepancy. The penalty is determined by formula, with higher penalties related to a campaign finance report where the amount of the discrepancy exceeds \$25,000. For all other reports, the penalty is up to \$3,000.

Section 10 [Minn. Stat. 10A.025, subd. 6; Penalty] provides that a late fee or civil penalty related to a campaign finance report assessed to a treasurer or candidate pursuant to this section may be paid by the treasurer's or candidate's principal campaign committee, party unit, political committee, or association that has a political fund.

Section 11 [Minn. Stat. 10A.14, subd. 4; Failure to file; penalty] modifies civil penalties and late fees for failure to file campaign finance reports. In general, the late filing fee is \$50 per day, not to exceed \$1000, commencing on the day after the date the report was due. For pre-primary and pre-election reports on which the total contributions or total disbursements that should have been newly reported exceeded \$100,000, the late filing fee is determined by formula. For pre-election reports, reports on personal contributions, or electioneering communication reports on which the total contributions or total disbursements exceed \$25,000, the late filing fee is determined by formula. For willful violations related to pre-election reports, reports on personal contributions, or electioneering communication reports, the board must impose a higher late filing fee. If a registration statement is not filed within

seven days after notice was sent by certified mail, additional civil penalties are imposed based on the type of report and the same monetary thresholds. Provides for escalating penalties if there are multiple violations in a four-year period.

Section 12 [Minn. Stat. 10A.20, subd. 16; Penalty] provides that a late fee or civil penalty assessed to a treasurer or candidate pursuant to this section may be paid by the treasurer's or candidate's principal campaign committee, party unit, political committee, or association that has a political fund.

Section 13 [Effective date] provides that this act is effective August 12, 2026, and applies to reports and statements due on or after that date.



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