

MAR 15 2001

ETHICS

HOUSE FILE 627  
BY WARNSTADT

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the proceedings of legislative ethics  
2 committees for factually inaccurate statements made by  
3 legislators.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 627

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68B.31A FACTUALLY INACCURATE  
2 STATEMENTS.

3 1. A legislator shall not knowingly make an inaccurate  
4 statement on the floor of either house.

5 2. A legislator may challenge any statement made by  
6 another legislator regarding the actions, votes, or statements  
7 of the other legislator as factually inaccurate. The  
8 legislator shall make the challenge by filing a complaint with  
9 the ethics committee in the house in which the legislator  
10 alleged to have made the factually inaccurate statement is a  
11 member. Upon receiving notification of the complaint as  
12 provided in section 68B.31, the legislator alleged to have  
13 made the factually inaccurate statement shall file an answer  
14 to the complaint with the ethics committee within seven days  
15 following the receipt of notification of the complaint. If a  
16 retraction of the statement is included in the answer, the  
17 ethics committee shall dismiss the complaint and publish  
18 notice of the retraction in the journal. Upon receiving an  
19 answer to the complaint that does not include a retraction of  
20 the statement, the ethics committee shall proceed on the  
21 complaint as provided in section 68B.31.

22 EXPLANATION

23 This bill relates to the proceedings of legislative ethics  
24 committees for factually inaccurate statements made by  
25 legislators regarding the actions, votes, or statements of the  
26 other legislator.

27 The bill prohibits a legislator from making a factually  
28 inaccurate statement regarding the actions, votes, or  
29 statements of the other legislator. The bill provides that a  
30 legislator may challenge any statement made by another  
31 legislator as factually inaccurate. The bill provides that  
32 the legislator making the challenge shall file a complaint  
33 with the ethics committee in the house in which the legislator  
34 alleged to have made the factually inaccurate statement is a  
35 member. The bill provides that, upon receiving notification

1 of the complaint, the legislator alleged to have made the  
2 factually inaccurate statement shall file an answer to the  
3 complaint with the ethics committee within seven days  
4 following the receipt of notification of the complaint. The  
5 bill provides that, if a retraction of the statement is  
6 included in the answer, the ethics committee shall dismiss the  
7 complaint and publish notice of the retraction in the journal.  
8 The bill provides that, upon receiving an answer to the  
9 complaint that does not include a retraction of the statement,  
10 the ethics committee shall proceed on the complaint as  
11 provided in Code section 68B.31.

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