

MAR 19 2001
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 652
BY JOCHUM

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements for political campaigns,
2 including electronic filing of amendments, media reports,
3 campaign contribution limits, campaign advertisements, and
4 voter information programs, and providing an effective date.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 56.6A ELECTRONIC FILING.

2 Reports filed with the board pursuant to the requirements
3 of section 56.6 shall be filed in an electronic format if a
4 candidate or committee accepts contributions in excess of
5 twenty thousand dollars in the aggregate, makes expenditures
6 in excess of twenty thousand dollars in the aggregate, or
7 incurs indebtedness in excess of twenty thousand dollars in
8 the aggregate.

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 56.12B CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.

10 Candidates shall be subject to the following contribution
11 limits:

12 1. Candidates for statewide office:

13 a. One thousand dollars in the aggregate per individual
14 contribution.

15 b. Five thousand dollars in the aggregate per political
16 committee contribution.

17 2. Candidates for the Iowa senate and house of
18 representatives:

19 a. Five hundred dollars in the aggregate per individual
20 contribution.

21 b. One thousand dollars in the aggregate per political
22 committee contribution.

23 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 56.13A MEDIA REPORTS.

24 1. a. Publishers of print and electronic media shall
25 record all purchases of print space and electronic media time
26 or space related to advertisements that expressly advocate the
27 election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or the
28 passage or defeat of a ballot issue.

29 b. Publishers shall file monthly reports of activity
30 covered by this section with the board, due at the board or
31 postmarked by the fifth day of each month following any month
32 in which media space or time has been purchased for
33 advertisements that expressly advocate the election or defeat
34 of a clearly identified candidate or the passage or defeat of
35 a ballot issue.

1 c. The reports shall contain a detailed listing of at
2 least the following information:

3 (1) Identification of the persons buying the media space
4 or time.

5 (2) Identification of the candidate or ballot issue that
6 is clearly identified in the advertisement.

7 (3) Description of the position advocated by the persons
8 buying the media space or time with regard to the clearly
9 identified candidate or ballot issue.

10 (4) The dates on which the purchase took place, and the
11 dates for which the media space or time was purchased.

12 (5) The cost of the media space or time.

13 2. The filing requirements of this section shall apply in
14 addition to any other applicable filing requirements under
15 this chapter.

16 3. The board shall develop, prescribe, furnish, and
17 distribute forms for the media reports.

18 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 56.14A CAMPAIGN ADVERTISEMENTS.

19 All broadcast and print advertisements placed by candidates
20 or candidate's committees shall include a clear written or
21 spoken statement indicating that the candidate has approved of
22 the contents of the advertisement.

23 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 56.14B VOTER INFORMATION PROGRAM.

24 1. The board shall establish and administer a nonpartisan
25 voter information program, including an advisory council
26 consisting of representatives of nonprofit organizations,
27 political parties, the media, and interested citizens.

28 2. The voter information program advisory council shall be
29 authorized to establish a voter information program for the
30 purpose of providing voters with election-related information
31 and fostering political dialogue and debate.

32 3. The voter information program advisory council shall
33 organize the publication and distribution of a voter
34 information guide that includes important information about
35 the following issues:

- 1 a. Candidates appearing on the ballot, including
- 2 biographical material submitted by the candidates.
- 3 b. Policy statements by the candidates or their political
- 4 parties on issues designated by the council and other issues.
- 5 c. Candidates' voting records.
- 6 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
- 7 2002.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill amends Code chapter 56, relating to the campaign
10 finance law.

11 The bill requires in new Code section 56.6A electronic
12 filing by any candidate or committee that reaches a \$20,000
13 threshold, and requires publishers of print and electronic
14 media to file reports of media buys in new Code section
15 56.13A.

16 Contributions to candidates are limited in Code section
17 56.12B.

18 All candidates must include a statement with all
19 advertisements placed by the candidate or the candidate's
20 committee indicating that the candidate has approved of the
21 contents of the advertisement, pursuant to new Code section
22 56.14A.

23 New Code section 56.14B provides that the board shall
24 administer a voter information program, including an advisory
25 council, to provide voters with election-related information,
26 including a voter guide with candidate biographical material,
27 policy statements and voting records.

28 The bill takes effect January 1, 2002.

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