

JAN 18 2002
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 2088
BY RAECKER

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to electronic filing of disclosure reports by
2 certain candidates and providing an effective date.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 56.2, Code 2001, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. "Computer" means an electronic device
4 that performs logical, arithmetical, and memory functions by
5 manipulations of electronic or magnetic impulses, and includes
6 all functions, connections, and connected and related devices
7 that assist in input, output, processing, storage, computer
8 programs, computer applications, and communication.

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 13A. "Electronic format" means data in a
10 form that is readable by a computer and the computer's
11 software programs, and is either entered directly into a
12 computer or transmitted via computer disk, modem, or internet.

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 15A. "General election cycle" means the
14 period of time between the general election for a particular
15 office, and the next general election for that office.

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 15B. "Internet" means the federated
17 system of allied computer networks linked by telecommunication
18 channels that is the international network of the network that
19 connects educational, scientific, and commercial institutions,
20 and that may also be accessed by individuals.

21 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 56.6A ELECTRONIC FILING AND
22 ACCESSIBILITY OF DISCLOSURE REPORTS.

23 1. Reports filed with the board pursuant to the
24 requirements of section 56.6 shall be filed in an electronic
25 format, according to the following:

26 a. Any candidate or political committee may submit data
27 required by section 56.6 in an electronic format, as
28 prescribed by rule.

29 b. Any candidate, candidate's committee, or political
30 committee that accepts contributions in excess of twenty
31 thousand dollars in the aggregate, makes expenditures in
32 excess of twenty thousand dollars in the aggregate, or incurs
33 indebtedness in excess of twenty thousand dollars in the
34 aggregate in any general election cycle shall submit the data
35 required by section 56.6 in an electronic format, by five p.m.

1 of the day the filing is due, as prescribed by rule.

2 2. If any candidate for a particular office submits data
3 in an electronic format, then the data for all other
4 candidates for that office shall be maintained in an
5 electronic format, as prescribed by rule. The data for any
6 candidate for that office that was not voluntarily submitted
7 to the board in an electronic format by the candidate or the
8 candidate's committee shall be entered into the computer
9 database by the board.

10 3. All campaign finance data that is submitted to the
11 board in an electronic format or is otherwise entered into the
12 computer database shall be accessible to the public on the
13 internet on the day the data is filed in a database searchable
14 by candidate or committee name, by contribution amount, or by
15 contributor name. However, data that is filed on a Friday,
16 Saturday, or Sunday shall be made available on the internet by
17 five p.m. on the following Monday.

18 4. The board shall provide for appropriate training for
19 candidates, candidate's committee treasurers, and other
20 persons designated by the candidate.

21 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act is effective January 1,
22 2004.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill implements new Code section 56.6A, relating to
25 electronic filing and disclosure of campaign finance
26 disclosure reports. Mandatory filing requirements are
27 effective January 1, 2004.

28 Effective January 1, 2004, mandatory filing is instituted
29 for all candidates and committees that reach a \$20,000
30 threshold. The board is directed to provide appropriate
31 training for candidates, treasurers, and other persons
32 designated by the candidate. If any candidate for a
33 particular office submits data in an electronic format, then
34 all data for all other candidates for that office will be
35 maintained in an electronic format. The data for any

1 candidate for that office that was not voluntarily submitted
2 to the board in an electronic format by the candidate or the
3 candidate's committee shall be entered into the computer
4 database by the board. Any candidate or committee may submit
5 their data in electronic format, if desired.

6 Effective January 1, 2004, the bill requires all campaign
7 finance data that is submitted to the board in an electronic
8 format or is otherwise entered into the computer database to
9 be accessible to the public on the internet in a database
10 searchable by candidate or committee name, or by contributor
11 name. Electronic filing shall be made by 5 p.m. on the day
12 the filing is due, and the information shall be made available
13 to the public via the internet on the same day, unless filed
14 on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, in which case it shall be
15 made available by 5 p.m. on the following Monday.

16 Definitions are added to Code section 56.2 regarding
17 "computer", "electronic format", "internet", and "general
18 election cycle", to facilitate the new filing requirements.

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