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SENATE FILE 238

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HARPER, HAMMOND, and GRONSTAL

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to prohibit new campaign advertising within five days of
2 an election, and applying penalties.

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

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SF 238
STATE GOVERNMENT

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 56.14A NEW ADVERTISING BEFORE
2 ELECTION -- RESTRICTIONS.

3 A candidate or a candidate's committee shall not, within
4 the five-day period that immediately precedes the election in
5 which the candidate is seeking office, publish, distribute, or
6 cause to be published or distributed, published material
7 designed to expressly advocate the nomination, election, or
8 defeat of the candidate or the candidate's opponent unless the
9 material was previously published or distributed during the
10 period of time which preceded that five-day period. For
11 purposes of this section, "published material" includes
12 "published material" as defined under section 56.14 and paid
13 political announcements broadcast through electronic media
14 including, but not limited to, radio, television, or computer
15 networks.

16 EXPLANATION

17 This bill prohibits candidates or candidate's committees
18 from publishing certain forms of new political advertising
19 during the five-day period that immediately precedes the
20 election for office. The political advertising covered under
21 the new prohibition includes advertising in newspapers,
22 magazines, shoppers, on outdoor advertising facilities,
23 posters, direct mailings, brochures, or any other form of
24 printed general public political advertising, as well as paid
25 political announcements broadcast through electronic media. A
26 violation of the prohibition against new advertising is a
27 serious misdemeanor under Code section 56.16, punishable by a
28 fine of at least \$250 but not more than \$1,500 and possible
29 imprisonment not to exceed one year.

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