

S.F. No. 1714 – Campaign Finance Modifications

Author: Senator Mary Kiffmeyer

Prepared by: Alexis C. Stangl, Senate Counsel (651/296-4397)

Date: March 8, 2021

S.F. 1714 amends several provisions relating to campaign finance and public disclosure laws.

Section 1. Public official. This section amends the definition of “public official” in chapter 10A to include the chancellor and members of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Section 2. Time for filing. This section strikes the reference to filing a statement of economic interest with the Board. A later subdivision of the same law specifies where the form must be filed.

Section 3. Notice to board. This section eliminates the requirement that local governments notify the board when the local government hires or appoints a local official that is required to file a statement of economic interest.

Section 4. Form; general requirements. This section strikes two paragraphs relating to original statements of economic interest and replaces it with a new subdivision created in section 5.

Section 5. Original statement; reporting period. This section creates a new subdivision that applies to the original statement of economic interest. The statement must cover the calendar month before the month in which the filer because a public official, local official, assumed office, or filed an affidavit of candidacy, as applicable. Sections 4 and 5 together provide a more uniform approach to the reporting period.

Section 6. Annual statement. This section increases the amount of honorarium that must be reported from \$50 to \$250. This section also strikes two paragraphs relating to what months must be included in the statement. By eliminating these two paragraphs, the annual statement must include information for the previous period through December 31.

Section 7. Third-party reimbursement. This section corrects two cross-references.

Section 8. Unregistered association limit; statement; penalty. Allows an unregistered association to provide disclosure statements through a government website address where the disclosure report for the association may be viewed. This section eliminates the requirement to disclose in-kind contributions from a federal committee of a political party to the committee's state committee or party organization of a legislative house.

Section 9. Exceptions. Under current law, expenditures made by a political party for a telephone conversation including the names of three or more individuals who will appear on the ballot do not count as a contribution to a candidate or an independent expenditure. This section expands the provision to include voicemail, text messages, multimedia messages, internet chat message, and e-mails.

Section 10. Affidavit of contributions. This section corrects a cross-reference.

Section 11. Repealer. This section repeals two subdivisions require the president and directors of Enterprise Minnesota, Inc. to file statements with the Board disclosing contributions made to public official, political committee, political fund, or political party made within the past four years that were subject to the reporting requirements of chapter 10A.