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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 496

01/18/2023 Authored by Klevorn; Freiberg; Coulter; Nelson, M.; Hanson, J., and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to ethics in government; limiting certain types of contributions that grant
1.3 registered lobbyists or other individuals special access to a meeting room,
1.4 hospitality area, or other event space where public officials are likely to gather
1.5 and the primary purpose of granting that special access is to facilitate informal
1.6 meetings or socialization with public officials; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022,
1.7 section 10A.273, subdivision 1.

1.8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.10 Subdivision 1. Contributions during legislative session. (a) A candidate for the
1.11 legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a
1.12 political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within
1.13 a house of the legislature, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist,
1.14 political committee, political fund, or an association not registered with the board during a
1.15 regular session of the legislature.

1.16 (b) A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or an association not
1.17 registered with the board must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or
1.18 for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political
1.19 committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house
1.20 of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.

1.21 (c) A candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal
1.22 campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of
1.23 the party organization within a house of the legislature must not solicit or accept, at any

2.1 time of year, a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund,  
2.2 or an association not registered with the board, if in exchange for the contribution:

2.3 (1) a registered lobbyist or any other individual is granted special access to a meeting  
2.4 room, hospitality area, or other event space where public officials are likely to gather; and

2.5 (2) the primary purpose of granting the special access is to facilitate informal meetings  
2.6 or socialization with public officials during a regular or special session of the legislature.

2.7 As used in this paragraph, "special access" means privileges to enter and use a space that  
2.8 is not freely available to members of the public, or that is subject to the discretionary approval  
2.9 of the responsible candidate, principal campaign committee, political committee, or party  
2.10 unit. A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or an association not registered  
2.11 with the board is prohibited from offering or making a contribution that may not be solicited  
2.12 or accepted under this paragraph.