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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 4243

03/12/2026 Authored by Freiberg
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Government Operations
03/23/2026 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
Read for the Second Time

A bill for an act

relating to campaign finance; increasing certain reporting thresholds; clarifying certain deadlines and filing periods; making conforming changes for local candidates; making technical changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 10A.01, subdivision 24; 10A.07, subdivisions 1, 2; 10A.09, subdivisions 2, 5a, 6a; 10A.16; 10A.175, subdivisions 2, 3, 5; 10A.20, subdivisions 2, 2a, 3, 4; 10A.25, subdivision 10; 10A.27, subdivision 17; 10A.275, subdivision 1; Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 10A.09, subdivision 1.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.01, subdivision 24, is amended to read:

Subd. 24. **Metropolitan governmental unit.** "Metropolitan governmental unit" means ~~any of the seven counties in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2,~~ a regional railroad authority established by ~~one or more of those counties under section 398A.03, a city with a population of over 50,000 located in the seven-county metropolitan area,~~ a county in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2; the Metropolitan Council~~, or a metropolitan agency as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 5a~~; the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission; the Metropolitan Airports Commission; or the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.07, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Disclosure of potential conflicts.** (a) A public official or a local official elected to or appointed by a metropolitan governmental unit, by any of the seven counties in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, or by a city with a population of over 50,000 located in the seven-county metropolitan area, who in the discharge of official duties would be required to take an action or make a decision that would substantially affect the

official's financial interests or those of an associated business, unless the effect on the official is no greater than on other members of the official's business classification, profession, or occupation, must take the following actions:

(1) prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict of interest;

(2) deliver copies of the statement to the official's immediate superior, if any; and

(3) if a member of the legislature or of the governing body of a ~~metropolitan governmental unit~~ political subdivision, deliver a copy of the statement to the presiding officer of the body of service.

If a potential conflict of interest presents itself and there is insufficient time to comply with clauses (1) to (3), the public or local official must orally inform the superior or the official body of service or committee of the body of the potential conflict.

(b) For purposes of this section, "financial interest" means any ownership or control in an asset that has the potential to produce a monetary return.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.07, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Required actions.** (a) If the official is not a member of the legislature or of the governing body of a ~~metropolitan governmental unit~~ political subdivision, the superior must assign the matter, if possible, to another employee who does not have a potential conflict of interest.

(b) If there is no immediate superior, the official must abstain, if possible, by assigning the matter to a subordinate for disposition or requesting the appointing authority to designate another to determine the matter. The official shall not chair a meeting, participate in any vote, or offer any motion or discussion on the matter giving rise to the potential conflict of interest.

(c) If the official is a member of the legislature, the house of service may, at the member's request, excuse the member from taking part in the action or decision in question.

(d) If an official is not permitted or is otherwise unable to abstain from action in connection with the matter, the official must file a statement describing the potential conflict and the action taken. A public official must file the statement with the board and a local official must file the statement with the governing body of the official's political subdivision. The statement must be filed within a week of the action taken.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 10A.09, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Time for filing.** An individual must file a statement of economic interest:

(1) within 60 days of accepting employment as a public official or a local official in a metropolitan governmental unit, any of the seven counties in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, or a city with a population of over 50,000 located in the seven-county metropolitan area;

(2) within 60 days of assuming office as a district court judge, appeals court judge, supreme court justice, or county commissioner;

(3) within 14 days after the end of the filing period for a candidate who filed an affidavit of candidacy or petition to appear on the ballot for an elective state constitutional or legislative office or an elective local office in ~~a metropolitan governmental unit~~ any of the seven counties in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121 other than county commissioner, or in a city with a population of over 50,000 located in the seven-county metropolitan area;

(4) in the case of a public official requiring the advice and consent of the senate, within 14 days after undertaking the duties of office; or

(5) in the case of members of the Minnesota Racing Commission, the director of the Minnesota Racing Commission, chief of security, medical officer, inspector of pari-mutuels, and stewards employed or approved by the commission or persons who fulfill those duties under contract, within 60 days of accepting or assuming duties.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Notice to board.** Notwithstanding section 204B.06, subdivision 1b, the secretary of state or the appropriate county auditor, upon receiving an affidavit of candidacy or petition to appear on the ballot from an individual required by this section to file a statement of economic interest, and any official who nominates or employs a public official required by this section to file a statement of economic interest, must notify the board of the name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of the individual required to file a statement and the date of the affidavit, petition, or nomination. Data provided to the board under this subdivision retains its classification.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

Subd. 5a. **Original statement; reporting period.** (a) An original statement of economic interest required under subdivision 1, clause (1), must cover the calendar month before the month in which the individual accepted employment as a public official or a local official in a ~~metropolitan governmental unit~~ political subdivision.

(b) An original statement of economic interest required under subdivision 1, clauses (2), (4), and (5), must cover the calendar month before the month in which the individual assumed or undertook the duties of office.

(c) An original statement of economic interest required under subdivision 1, clause (3), must cover the calendar month before the month in which the candidate filed the affidavit of candidacy.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.09, subdivision 6a, is amended to read:

Subd. 6a. **Place of filing.** A public official required to file a statement under this section must file it with the board. A local official required to file a statement under this section must file it with the governing body of the official's political subdivision. The governing body must maintain statements filed with it under this subdivision as public data. If an official position is defined as both a public official and as a local official of a ~~metropolitan governmental unit~~ political subdivision under this chapter, the official must file the statement with the board.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.16, is amended to read:

10A.16 EARMARKING CONTRIBUTIONS PROHIBITED.

An individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit may not solicit or accept a contribution from any source with the express or implied condition that the contribution or any part of it be directed to a particular candidate or local candidate other than the initial recipient. An individual, political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit that knowingly accepts any earmarked contribution is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to $3,000. Knowingly accepting any earmarked contribution is a gross misdemeanor.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.175, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Agent.** "Agent" means a person serving during an election segment as a candidate's or local candidate's chairperson, deputy chairperson, treasurer, deputy treasurer, or any other person whose actions are coordinated.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.175, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Candidate.** "Candidate" means a candidate or local candidate as defined in section 10A.01, ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions 10 and 10d, ~~the candidate's~~ a principal campaign committee, or the candidate's or local candidate's agent.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.175, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Coordinated.** "Coordinated" means with the authorization or expressed or implied consent of, or in cooperation or in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of the candidate or local candidate. A coordinated expenditure is an approved expenditure under section 10A.01, subdivision 4.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.20, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Time for filing.** (a) The reports must be filed with the board on or before January 31 of each year and additional reports must be filed as required and in accordance with paragraphs (b) to (f).

(b) In each year in which the name of a candidate for legislative or district court judicial office is on the ballot, the report of the principal campaign committee must be filed 15 days before a primary election and ten days before a general election, seven days before a special primary election and seven days before a special general election, and ten days after a special election cycle. Notwithstanding the deadlines, if a special primary election is held on the second Tuesday in August, the report of the principal campaign committee must be filed 15 days before the special primary election, and if a special general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the report of the principal campaign committee must be filed ten days before the special general election. If the committee received contributions or made expenditures or noncampaign disbursements prior to the start of the special election cycle, the principal campaign committee of a special election candidate must file a report seven days after the close of the filing period to be on the ballot for the special election for which the candidate filed.

(c) In each general election year, a political committee, a political fund, a state party committee, and a party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature must file reports on the following schedule:

(1) a first-quarter report covering the calendar year through March 31, which is due April 14;

(2) a report covering the calendar year through May 31, which is due June 14;

(3) a pre-primary-election report due 15 days before a primary election;

(4) a pre-general-election report due 42 days before the general election; and

(5) a pre-general-election report due ten days before a general election.

(d) In each general election year, a party unit not included in paragraph (c) must file reports 15 days before a primary election and ten days before a general election.

(e) In each year in which a constitutional office or appellate court judicial seat is on the ballot, the principal campaign committee of a candidate for that office or seat must file reports on the following schedule:

(1) a first-quarter report covering the calendar year through March 31, which is due April 14;

(2) a report covering the calendar year through May 31, which is due June 14;

(3) a pre-primary-election report due 15 days before a primary election;

(4) a pre-general-election report due 42 days before the general election;

(5) a pre-general-election report due ten days before a general election; and

(6) for a special election, a constitutional office candidate whose name is on the ballot must file reports seven days before a special primary election, seven days before a special general election, and ten days after a special election cycle.

(f) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) to (e):

(1) the principal campaign committee of a candidate who did not file for office is not required to file the report due June 14, the report due 15 days before the primary election, or the report due ~~seven days~~ before a special primary election; and

(2) the principal campaign committee of a candidate whose name will not be on the general election ballot is not required to file the report due 42 days before the general election, the report due ten days before a general election, or the report due ~~seven days~~ before a special general election.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.20, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

Subd. 2a. **Local election reports.** (a) This subdivision applies to a political committee, political fund, or political party unit that during a non-general election year:

(1) spends in aggregate more than $200 to influence the nomination or election of local candidates;

(2) spends in aggregate more than $200 to make independent expenditures on behalf of local candidates; ~~or~~

(3) spends in aggregate more than $200 to promote or defeat ballot questions defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 7, clause (2)~~, (3), or (4).~~.; or

(4) makes in aggregate more than $200 in donations in kind consisting of (i) independent expenditures advocating the election or defeat of local candidates, or (ii) expenditures to promote or defeat ballot questions as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 7, clause (2).

(b) In addition to the reports required by subdivision 2, the entities listed in paragraph (a) must file the following reports in each non-general election year:

(1) a first-quarter report covering the calendar year through March 31, which is due April 14;

(2) a report covering the calendar year through May 31, which is due June 14;

(3) a July report due 15 days before the local primary election date specified in section 205.065;

(4) a pre-general-election report due 42 days before the local general election; and

(5) a pre-general-election report due ten days before a local general election.

The reporting obligations in this paragraph and subdivision 5 begin with the first report due after the reporting period in which the entity reaches the spending threshold specified in paragraph (a). The July report required under clause (3) is required for all entities required to report under paragraph (a), regardless of whether the candidate or issue is on the primary ballot or a primary is not conducted.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.20, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Contents of report.** (a) The report required by this section must include each of the items listed in paragraphs (b) to (q) that are applicable to the filer. The board shall prescribe forms based on filer type indicating which of those items must be included on the filer's report.

(b) The report must disclose the amount of liquid assets on hand at the beginning of the reporting period.

(c) The report must disclose the name~~,~~; address~~,~~; employer~~,~~ or occupation if self-employed~~,~~; and registration number, if registered with the board, of each individual or association that has made one or more contributions to the reporting entity, including the purchase of tickets for a fundraising effort, that in aggregate within the year exceed $200 ~~for legislative or statewide candidates~~, or ~~more than~~ $500 ~~for~~ if the reporting entity is a ballot ~~questions, together with~~ question political committee or fund. For individuals or associations exceeding the aggregate threshold, the amount and date of each contribution, and the aggregate amount of contributions within the year from ~~each~~ that source ~~so~~ must be disclosed in the report. A donation in kind must be disclosed at its fair market value. An approved expenditure must be listed as a donation in kind. A donation in kind is considered consumed in the reporting period in which it is received. The names of contributors must be listed in alphabetical order. Contributions from the same contributor must be listed under the same name. When a contribution received from a contributor in a reporting period is added to previously reported unitemized contributions from the same contributor and the aggregate exceeds the disclosure threshold of this paragraph, the name, address, and employer, or occupation if self-employed, of the contributor must then be listed on the report.

(d) The report must disclose the sum of contributions to the reporting entity during the reporting period.

(e) The report must disclose each loan made or received by the reporting entity within the year in aggregate in excess of $200, or $500 if the reporting entity is a ballot question political committee or fund, continuously reported until repaid or forgiven, together with the name, address, occupation, principal place of business, if any, and registration number if registered with the board of the lender and any endorser and the date and amount of the loan. If a loan ~~made to the principal campaign committee of a candidate~~ is forgiven or is repaid by an entity other than ~~that principal campaign committee~~ the borrower, it must be reported as a contribution for the year in which the loan was made.

(f) The report must disclose each receipt over $200, or $500 if the reporting entity is a ballot question political committee or fund, during the reporting period not otherwise listed under paragraphs (c) to (e).

(g) The report must disclose the sum of all receipts of the reporting entity during the reporting period.

(h) The report must disclose the name, address, and registration number if registered with the board of each individual or association to whom aggregate expenditures, approved expenditures, independent expenditures, and ballot question expenditures have been made by or on behalf of the reporting entity within the year in excess of $200, together with the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure, including an explanation of how the expenditure was used, and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate or local candidate on whose behalf the expenditure was made, identification of the ballot question that the expenditure was intended to promote or defeat and an indication of whether the expenditure was to promote or to defeat the ballot question, and in the case of independent expenditures made in support of or opposition to a candidate or local candidate, the candidate's or local candidate's name, address, and office sought. A reporting entity making an expenditure on behalf of more than one candidate or local candidate must allocate the expenditure among the candidates and local candidates on a reasonable cost basis and report the allocation for each candidate or local candidate. The report must list on separate schedules any independent expenditures made on behalf of local candidates and any expenditures made for ballot questions as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 7, clause (2)~~, (3), or (4)~~.

(i) The report must disclose the sum of all expenditures made by or on behalf of the reporting entity during the reporting period.

(j) If the advance of credit was required to be itemized as an expenditure in the period in which it was incurred, the report must disclose the amount and nature of an advance of credit incurred by the reporting entity, continuously reported until paid or forgiven. If an advance of credit ~~incurred by the principal campaign committee of a candidate~~ is forgiven by the creditor or paid by an entity other than ~~that principal campaign committee~~ the debtor, it must be reported as a donation in kind for the year in which the advance of credit was made.

(k) The report must disclose the name, address, and registration number if registered with the board of each political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, local candidate, or party unit to which contributions have been made that aggregate in excess of $200 within the year and the amount and date of each contribution. The report must list on separate schedules any contributions made to state candidates' principal campaign committees and any contributions made to local candidates.

(l) The report must disclose the sum of all contributions made by the reporting entity during the reporting period and must separately disclose the sum of all contributions made to local candidates by the reporting entity during the reporting period.

(m) The report of a principal campaign committee must disclose the name, address, and registration number if registered with the board of each individual or association to whom noncampaign disbursements have been made that aggregate in excess of $200 within the year by or on behalf of the reporting entity and the amount, date, and purpose of each noncampaign disbursement, including an explanation of how the expenditure was used.

(n) The report of a principal campaign committee must disclose the sum of all noncampaign disbursements made within the year by or on behalf of the reporting entity.

(o) The report must disclose the name and address of a nonprofit corporation that provides administrative assistance to a political committee or political fund as authorized by section 211B.15, subdivision 17, the type of administrative assistance provided, and the aggregate fair market value of each type of assistance provided to the political committee or political fund during the reporting period.

(p) ~~Legislative, statewide, and judicial candidates, party units, and political committees and funds must itemize~~ Contributions that in aggregate within the year exceed $200 ~~for legislative or statewide candidates~~, or ~~more than~~ $500 ~~for~~ if the reporting entity is a ballot ~~questions~~ question political committee or fund, must be itemized on reports submitted to the board. The itemization must include the date on which the contribution was received, the individual or association that provided the contribution, and the address of the contributor. Additionally, the itemization for a donation in kind must provide a description of the item or service received. Contributions that are less than the itemization amount must be reported as an aggregate total.

(q) ~~Legislative, statewide, and judicial candidates, party units, political committees and funds, and committees to promote or defeat a ballot question must itemize~~ Expenditures and noncampaign disbursements that in aggregate exceed $200 in a calendar year must be itemized on reports submitted to the board. The itemization must include the date on which the committee made or became obligated to make the expenditure or disbursement, the name and address of the vendor that provided the service or item purchased, and a description of the service or item purchased, including an explanation of how the expenditure was used. Expenditures and noncampaign disbursements must be listed on the report alphabetically by vendor.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.20, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Period of report.** (a) A report must cover the period from January 1 of the reporting year to seven days before the report filing date, except that the report due on January 31 must cover the period from January 1 to December 31 of the reporting year.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the report of the principal campaign committee of a special election candidate due seven days after the close of the filing period to be on the ballot must cover the period from January 1 of the reporting year to the day prior to the start of the special election cycle.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the reports of the principal campaign committee of a special election candidate due seven days before a special primary election and seven days before a special general election must cover the period from the start of the special election cycle to seven days before the report filing date.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the report of the principal campaign committee of a special election candidate due ten days after a special election cycle must cover the period from the start of the special election cycle to the end of the special election cycle.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.25, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Effect of opponent's conduct.** (a) After the deadline for filing a spending limit agreement under section 10A.322, a candidate who has agreed to be bound by the expenditure limits imposed by this section as a condition of receiving a public subsidy for the candidate's campaign may choose to be released from the expenditure limits but remain eligible to receive a public subsidy if the candidate has an opponent who has not agreed to be bound by the limits and has received contributions or made or become obligated to make expenditures during that election cycle in excess of the following limits:

(1) up to the close of the reporting period before the primary election, receipts or expenditures equal to 20 percent of the election segment expenditure limit for that office as set forth in subdivision 2; or

(2) after the close of the reporting period before the primary election, cumulative receipts or expenditures during that election cycle equal to 50 percent of the election cycle expenditure limit for that office as set forth in subdivision 2.

Before the primary election, a candidate's "opponents" are only those who will appear on the ballot of the same party in the primary election.

(b) A candidate who has not agreed to be bound by expenditure limits, or the candidate's principal campaign committee, must file written notice with the board and provide written notice to any opponent of the candidate for the same office within 24 hours of exceeding the limits in paragraph (a). The notice must state only that the candidate or candidate's principal campaign committee has received contributions or made or become obligated to make campaign expenditures in excess of the limits in paragraph (a).

(c) Upon receipt of the notice, a candidate who had agreed to be bound by the limits may file with the board a notice that the candidate chooses to be no longer bound by the expenditure limits. A candidate who had agreed to be bound by the limits may also file a notice with the board that the candidate chooses to be no longer bound by the expenditure limits if an opponent that did not agree to be bound by the expenditure limits files a report of receipts and expenditures required under section 10A.20 that discloses that the candidate has reached one of the thresholds in paragraph (a). A notice of a candidate's choice not to be bound by the expenditure limits that is based on the conduct of an opponent in the state primary election may not be filed more than one day after the State Canvassing Board has declared the results of the state primary.

(d) A candidate who has agreed to be bound by the expenditure limits imposed by this section and whose opponent in the general election has chosen, as provided in paragraph (c), not to be bound by the expenditure limits because of the conduct of an opponent in the primary election is no longer bound by the limits but remains eligible to receive a public subsidy.

(e) A candidate who fails to provide the notice required in paragraph (b) within the time specified is subject to a late filing fee of $100 per day, not to exceed $1,000, commencing on the day after the notice was due.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.27, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

Subd. 17. **Penalty.** (a) An association that makes a contribution under subdivision 15 and fails to provide the required statement within the time specified is subject to a late filing fee of $100 a day not to exceed $1,000, commencing the day after the statement was due. The board must send notice by certified mail that the individual or association may be subject to a civil penalty for failure to file the statement. An association that fails to provide the required statement within seven days after the certified mail notice was sent by the board is subject to a civil penalty of up to four times the amount of the contribution, but not to exceed $25,000.

(b) An independent expenditure political committee or ~~an independent expenditure political~~ fund or ballot question political committee or fund that files a report without including the statement required under subdivision 15 is subject to a late filing fee of $100 a day not to exceed $1,000, commencing the day after the report was due. The board must send notice by certified mail that the independent expenditure political committee or ~~independent expenditure~~ fund or ballot question political committee or fund may be subject to a civil penalty for failure to file the statement. An association that fails to provide the

required statement within seven days after the certified mail notice was sent by the board is subject to a civil penalty of up to four times the amount of the contribution for which disclosure was not filed, but not to exceed $25,000.

(c) If an independent expenditure political committee or ~~an independent expenditure political~~ fund or ballot question political committee or fund has been assessed a late filing fee under this subdivision during the prior four years, the board may impose a late filing fee of up to twice the amount otherwise authorized by this subdivision. If an independent expenditure political committee or ~~an independent expenditure political~~ fund or ballot question political committee or fund has been assessed a late filing fee under this subdivision more than two times during the prior four years, the board may impose a late filing fee of up to three times the amount otherwise authorized by this subdivision.

(d) No other penalty provided in law may be imposed for conduct that is subject to a civil penalty under this section.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 10A.275, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Exceptions.** Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, the following expenditures by a party unit, or two or more party units acting together are not considered contributions to or expenditures on behalf of a candidate or local candidate for the purposes of section 10A.25 ~~or~~, 10A.27, or 211A.12, and must not be allocated to candidates or local candidates under section 10A.20, subdivision 3, paragraph (h), (k), or (l):

(1) expenditures on behalf of candidates or local candidates of that party generally without referring to any of them specifically in a published, posted, or broadcast advertisement;

(2) expenditures for the preparation, display, mailing, or other distribution of an official party sample ballot listing the names of three or more individuals whose names are to appear on the ballot;

(3) expenditures for a telephone call, voice mail, text message, multimedia message, Internet chat message, or email when the communication includes the names of three or more individuals whose names are to appear on the ballot;

(4) expenditures for a booth at a community event, county fair, or state fair that benefits three or more individuals whose names are to appear on the ballot;

(5) expenditures for a political party fundraising effort on behalf of three or more candidates or local candidates; or

(6) expenditures for party committee staff services that benefit three or more candidates or local candidates.