SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

S.F. No. 577

(SENATE AUTHORS: THOMPSON, Chamberlain, Newman and Gerlach)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/03/2011	331	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education
03/19/2012		Comm report: To pass as amended Second reading

A bill for an act

relating to education; prohibiting public school employees from using public funds and resources to advocate to pass, elect, or defeat a political candidate, ballot question, or pending legislation; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 123B.

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

Section 1. **[123B.022] PROHIBITING SCHOOL EMPLOYEES FROM USING PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY; ENDORSING TIMELY AND CURRENT FACTUAL INFORMATION.**

(a) A school board must adopt and implement a districtwide policy that prohibits district employees from using district funds or other publicly funded district resources, including time, materials, equipment, facilities, and communication technologies, among other resources, to advocate for electing or defeating a candidate, passing or defeating a ballot question, or passing or defeating pending legislation. The policy must apply when the employee performs the duties assigned to the employee under the employee's employment contract with the district, and includes the periods when the employee represents the district in an official capacity, among other duties. The policy must not apply when an employee disseminates factual information consistent with the employee's contractual duties.

(b) The school board must provide the district's electorate with timely factual information about a pending ballot question.