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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 3478

02/12/2024 Authored by Virnig, Sencer-Mura, Coulter, Pursell and Clardy
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 campaign finance; expanding the definition of noncampaign
1.3 disbursement to include certain child care expenses during a regular or special
1.4 legislative session; amending Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.01,
1.5 subdivision 26.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.01, subdivision 26, is
1.8 amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 26. **Noncampaign disbursement.** (a) "Noncampaign disbursement" means a
1.10 purchase or payment of money or anything of value made, or an advance of credit incurred,
1.11 or a donation in kind received, by a principal campaign committee for any of the following
1.12 purposes:

1.13 (1) payment for accounting and legal services related to operating the candidate's
1.14 campaign committee, serving in office, or security for the candidate or the candidate's
1.15 immediate family, including but not limited to seeking and obtaining a harassment restraining
1.16 order;

1.17 (2) return of a contribution to the source;

1.18 (3) repayment of a loan made to the principal campaign committee by that committee;

1.19 (4) return of a public subsidy;

1.20 (5) payment for food, beverages, and necessary utensils and supplies, entertainment,
1.21 and facility rental for a fundraising event;

- 2.1 (6) services for a constituent by a member of the legislature or a constitutional officer
2.2 in the executive branch as provided in section 10A.173, subdivision 1;
- 2.3 (7) payment for food and beverages consumed by a candidate or volunteers while they
2.4 are engaged in campaign activities;
- 2.5 (8) payment for food or a beverage consumed while attending a reception or meeting
2.6 directly related to legislative duties;
- 2.7 (9) payment of expenses incurred by elected or appointed leaders of a legislative caucus
2.8 in carrying out their leadership responsibilities;
- 2.9 (10) payment by a principal campaign committee of the candidate's expenses for serving
2.10 in public office, other than for personal uses;
- 2.11 (11) costs of child care for the candidate's children when campaigning, or when the
2.12 candidate is performing official legislative duties during a regular or special session of the
2.13 legislature;
- 2.14 (12) fees paid to attend a campaign school;
- 2.15 (13) costs of a postelection party during the election year when a candidate's name will
2.16 no longer appear on a ballot or the general election is concluded, whichever occurs first;
- 2.17 (14) interest on loans paid by a principal campaign committee on outstanding loans;
- 2.18 (15) filing fees;
- 2.19 (16) post-general election holiday or seasonal cards, thank-you notes, or advertisements
2.20 in the news media mailed or published prior to the end of the election cycle;
- 2.21 (17) the cost of campaign material purchased to replace defective campaign material, if
2.22 the defective material is destroyed without being used;
- 2.23 (18) contributions to a party unit;
- 2.24 (19) payments for funeral gifts or memorials;
- 2.25 (20) the cost of a magnet less than six inches in diameter containing legislator contact
2.26 information and distributed to constituents;
- 2.27 (21) costs associated with a candidate attending a political party state or national
2.28 convention in this state;
- 2.29 (22) other purchases or payments specified in board rules or advisory opinions as being
2.30 for any purpose other than to influence the nomination or election of a candidate or to
2.31 promote or defeat a ballot question;

3.1 (23) costs paid to a third party for processing contributions made by a credit card, debit
3.2 card, or electronic check;

3.3 (24) costs paid by a candidate's principal campaign committee to support the candidate's
3.4 participation in a recount of ballots affecting the candidate's election;

3.5 (25) a contribution to a fund established to support a candidate's participation in a recount
3.6 of ballots affecting that candidate's election;

3.7 (26) costs paid by a candidate's principal campaign committee for a single reception
3.8 given in honor of the candidate's retirement from public office after the filing period for
3.9 affidavits of candidacy for that office has closed;

3.10 (27) a donation from a terminating principal campaign committee to the state general
3.11 fund;

3.12 (28) a donation from a terminating principal campaign committee to a county obligated
3.13 to incur special election expenses due to that candidate's resignation from state office;

3.14 (29) during a period starting January 1 in the year following a general election and ending
3.15 on December 31 of the year of general election, total payments of up to \$3,000 for
3.16 detection-related security monitoring expenses for a candidate, including home security
3.17 hardware, maintenance of home security monitoring hardware, identity theft monitoring
3.18 services, and credit monitoring services; and

3.19 (30) costs paid to repair or replace campaign property that was: (i) lost or stolen, or (ii)
3.20 damaged or defaced to such a degree that the property no longer serves its intended purpose.
3.21 For purposes of this clause, campaign property includes but is not limited to campaign lawn
3.22 signs. The candidate must document the need for these costs in writing or with photographs.

3.23 (b) The board must determine whether an activity involves a noncampaign disbursement
3.24 within the meaning of this subdivision.

3.25 (c) A noncampaign disbursement is considered to be made in the year in which the
3.26 candidate made the purchase of goods or services or incurred an obligation to pay for goods
3.27 or services.