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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 819

02/06/2017 Authored by Koznick, Erickson, Loon, Pelowski, Kresha and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Innovation Policy

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

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

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

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

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

1.21 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2018.