

# State

Pages 991-1002



STATE OF  
MINNESOTA

# Register

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### OFFICIAL NOTICES

Request for an Ethical Practices Board Advisory Opinion	996
Ethical Practices Board Advisory Opinion #37	996
Public Meetings on State Transportation Plan	997

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A detailed table of contents appears inside.

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# CONTENTS

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## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### **Ethical Practices Board**

Outside Opinion Sought on Request for an Advisory

Opinion ..... 996

Advisory Opinion #37 ..... 996

### **Department of Transportation**

Public Meetings on the State Transportation Plan .... 997

# MCAR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

List of amendments and additions to rules contained in the Minnesota Code of Agency Rules (MCAR) as published in the State Register, Volume 2.

## TITLE 1 CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

### Part 2 Secretary of State

SecStat 301, 502-599, 601, 604-699, 902, 903, 1102, 1101-1199, 2101-2106, 2108-2111, 2113, 2115 (proposed) ..... 784

### Part 3 State Treasurer

TRE 1-14 (proposed) ..... 662

## TITLE 2 ADMINISTRATION

### Part 1 Administration Department

SBC 101-111, 201-204 (proposed) ..... 837  
SBC 6001-6006 (adopted) ..... 173  
SBC 6101-6107 (adopted) ..... 806

### Part 2 Personnel Department

PersI 4, 9, 11-12, 19, 21-22, 24, 28-29, 31, 39-40, 46-47, 61, 65-66, 68, 82, 85, 97, 106, 109, 129, 131, 133, 135-136, 141, 144, 160-161, 166-168, 170, 172, 181-182, 203, 224-254 (proposed) ..... 254  
PersI 9, 18-19, 24, 31, 39, 61, 109, 131, 141, 144, 181, 203 (proposed temporary rules) ..... 50  
PersI 9, 18-19, 24, 31, 39, 61, 109, 131, 135-136, 141, 144, 181, 203 (adopted temporary rules) ..... 308  
PersI 9, 18-19, 24, 31, 39, 61, 109, 131, 135-136, 141, 144, 181, 203 (adopted temporary rules) ..... 949  
PersI 275-285 (proposed) ..... 92

## TITLE 3 AGRICULTURE

### Part 1 Agriculture Department

3 MCAR §§ 1.0563-1.0568 (proposed) ..... 248  
3 MCAR §§ 1.0563-1.0568 (adopted) ..... 948  
Emergency Rules 1, 2 (adopted emergency rules) ..... 128  
3 MCAR §§ 1.0583-1.0585 (proposed) ..... 694

### Part 2 Livestock Sanitary Board

3 MCAR §§ 2.002, 2.005, 2.042 (proposed) ..... 194  
3 MCAR §§ 2.002, 2.040 (proposed) ..... 930  
3 MCAR § 2.041 (adopted) ..... 915

## TITLE 4 COMMERCE

### Part 1 Commerce Department

BD 226, 227 (proposed) ..... 177  
Ins 92, 92 (proposed) ..... 183  
Ins 180-188 (proposed) ..... 178

### Part 3 Public Service Department

PSC 2, 5 (adopted) ..... 977  
PSC 390-395 (adopted) ..... 834

### Part 6 Accountancy Board

Accy 5, 8, 12, 18-19, 30, 40, 43-46, 50, 60, 63, 70-74, 80-84, 110-112, 120-121, 140-141, 150-151, 220-429 (adopted) ..... 145

### Part 7 Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Survey and Landscape Architecture

AE&LS 9 (proposed) ..... 678

### Part 8 Barber Examiners Board

BE 1-15, 26-31, 33, 42-45, 56-66, 77-79 (proposed) ..... 410

### Part 9 Boxing Board

4 MCAR §§ 9.101-9.124, 9.201-9.215, 9.301-9.306, 9.401-9.411, 9.501-9.518, 9.601-9.611 (proposed) ..... 916

## Part 10 Cosmetology Board

MSBC 1-8, 20-29, 40-42, 60-66 (proposed) ..... 35  
MSBC 64 (errata) ..... 164

## TITLE 5 EDUCATION

### Part 1 Education Department

5 MCAR §§ 1.720-1.725 (proposed temporary rules) ..... 251  
EDU 44, 764, 767-769 (adopted) ..... 915  
EDU 741, 743 (adopted) ..... 693  
5 MCAR §§ 1.0720-1.0724 (adopted temporary) ..... 753  
5 MCAR §§ 1.0764, 1.0767-1.0769 (adopted temporary) ..... 305

### Part 2 Higher Education Coordinating Board

5 MCAR §§ 2.0101-2.0108, 2.0301-2.0310, 2.0401-2.0407, 2.0501-2.0507, 2.0601-2.0607, 2.0801-2.0806 (proposed) ..... 697  
HECB 101-103, 105-108, 301-310, 401-407, 501-507, 601-607 (proposed) ..... 697

### Part 3 Teaching Board

5 MCAR §§ 3.001, 3.003-3.015, 3.020-3.031, 3.041, 3.050-3.054, 3.060-3.086, 3.102-3.103, 3.130 (proposed) ..... 311  
5 MCAR §§ 3.002-3.003, 3.106, 3.108-3.109 (adopted) ..... 915

### Part 5 Arts Board

MSAB 1-8 (adopted) ..... 31

## TITLE 6 ENVIRONMENT

### Part 1 Natural Resources Department

NR 51, 56 (proposed) ..... 441  
NR 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640 (adopted) ..... 174  
NR 5020-5026 (proposed) ..... 201  
NR 5300 (proposed) ..... 287  
NR 10 (proposed) ..... 777

### Part 3 Environmental Quality Board

MEQC 72, 73, 76-80, 82 (adopted emergency) ..... 501  
MEQC 71-82 (proposed) ..... 508

### Part 4 Pollution Control Agency

APC 4, 11 (errata) ..... 135  
WPC 43 (proposed) ..... 94  
HW 1-10 (proposed) ..... 521  
SW 1-4, 6, 7 (proposed) ..... 616  
WPC 38 (adopted) ..... 833  
WPC 40 (proposed) ..... 710

### Part 5 Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Council

WWOB 1 (proposed) ..... 675

### Part 6 Metropolitan Waste Control Commission

MWCC 2 ..... 518

### Part 7 Soil and Water Conservation Board

SWC 1-5 (adopted emergency rules) ..... 970

## TITLE 7 HEALTH

### Part 1 Health Department

MHD 145-149 (emergency rules) ..... 381  
MHD 220(a), 224 (proposed) ..... 926  
MHD 268, 279, 294, 304-306, 314-315, (proposed) ..... 420  
MHD 139 (proposed) ..... 674  
7 MCAR § 1.370 (adopted) ..... 832  
7 MCAR §§ 1.521-1.527 (adopted) ..... 829

### Part 4 Medical Board

7 MCAR § 4.012 (proposed) ..... 309

### Part 5 Nursing Board

7 MCAR §§ 5.1002-5.1004, 5.1032-5.1036, 5.1060-5.1061, 5.1063, 5.1080, 5.1091, 5.2002-5.2003, 5.2005, 5.2030-5.2036,

# MCAR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

5.2040, 5.2050-5.2051, 5.2053, 5.2070, 5.2082 (proposed) ..	228
7 MCAR §§ 5.1010, 5.1011, 5.1030-5.1033 (proposed) .....	755

## Part 7 Optometry Board

OPT 1-8 (proposed) .....	44
--------------------------	----

## TITLE 8 LABOR

### Part 1 Labor and Industry Department

LS 1-9, 12, 14-18 (proposed) .....	189
FEA 1, 3, 7-8, 13, 16, 22, 27, 29, 44, 57 (proposed) .....	187
MOSHC 1 (emergency rule) .....	145
MOSHC 1 (adopted) .....	969
MOSHC 270-283, 290-306, 310-317, 320-336 (proposed) .....	149

### Part 3 Public Employment Relations Board

PERB 1, 3, 10, 35, 40-41, 50, 55 (proposed) .....	931
---	-----

## TITLE 9 LAW

### Part 2 Hearing Examiners Office

HE 102-112, 203-206, 209-214, 216-218, 222 (proposed) ....	382
HE 401-418 (adopted temporary rules) .....	85
HE 401-418 (proposed) .....	382

## TITLE 10 PLANNING

### Part 1 State Planning Agency

10 MCAR §§ 1.305-1.306 (adopted temporary rules) .....	146
10 MCAR §§ 1.305-1.306 (adopted) .....	673

## TITLE 11 PUBLIC SAFETY

### Part 1 Public Safety Department

DES 94, 129-130, 140-141 (proposed) .....	443
11 MCAR §§ 1.5067-1.5070 (proposed) .....	891
MoVeh 58 (adopted) .....	33
MoVeh 70-82 (adopted) .....	145

Liq 1-3, 24-35, 38-39, 56, 67, 71-77, 83-84, 92, 95, 98-100, 123 (proposed) .....	96
---	----

## Part 2 Corrections Department

CORR 4-12 (adopted) .....	84
CORR 4 (errata) .....	135
CORR 200-203 (emergency rules) .....	407
CORR 200-203 (adopted temporary rules) .....	969

## TITLE 12 SOCIAL SERVICE

### Part 2 Public Welfare Department

DPW 30 (proposed temporary rule) .....	132
DPW 33 (proposed temporary rule) .....	133
DPW 30A, 33A (adopted temporary) .....	754
DPW 44 (errata) .....	998
DPW 47 (adopted) .....	353
DPW 47 (proposed) .....	677
DPW 49 (proposed temporary rule) .....	234
DPW 49 (proposed) .....	617
DPW 49 (adopted) .....	245
DPW 49A (adopted temporary) .....	507
DPW 52 (adopted) .....	34
DPW 94, 104, 116, 125, 128, 131-132, 140-141 (proposed) ..	455
DPW 125, 126, 128, 130-132, 135, 140 (proposed) .....	633
DPW 160 (proposed) .....	60
DPW 160 (proposed) .....	160
DPW 160 (errata) .....	164

### Part 3 Housing Finance Agency

MHFA 1-17, 31-36, 51, 61-69, 111-115 (adopted) .....	306
MHFA 120 (proposed) .....	675

## TITLE 14 TRANSPORTATION

### Part 1 Transportation Department

14 MCAR §§ 1.4025-1.4028 (proposed temporary rules) .....	892
---	-----

# OFFICIAL NOTICES

## Ethical Practices Board

### Outside Opinion Sought on Request for an Advisory Opinion

The State Ethical Practices Board solicits opinions of any individual or association regarding the following request for an advisory opinion prior to its approval of an advisory opinion on December 12, 1977.

Gene Lourey  
Star Route, Box 100  
Kerrick, Minnesota 55756

November 2, 1977

Ethical Practices Board  
41 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Sir:

In 1976, I ran unsuccessfully for Democratic endorsement for the Minnesota State Senate in District 14. I was careful not to spend over \$100 in that effort. All of that money was my own.

Then in December of 1976, I decided to try again in 1980. I started a volunteer committee, raised about \$700 and filed a report in January of 1977. I am raising money now and expect to have about \$2,000 by December 31, 1977.

It now appears that there is a possibility of my running for the State House of Representatives in 1978. If this develops, I would like to transfer some or all funds from the current volunteer committee to that campaign. I would like to know if that is possible, and if so what procedure should be followed.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Gene Lourey

### Advisory Opinion #37 Adopted by the Ethical Practices Board November 7, 1977

Issued to:

Senator Winston Borden  
Assistant Majority Leader  
Room 208  
State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minn.

### 37. Transfer of Funds from a Congressional Campaign Committee

#### Syllabus

Excess campaign funds, from congressional campaign committee may be transferred to a campaign committee for statewide office subject to the limitations of M. S. 10A.27, subd. 1 and provided the contributors to the congressional committee are disclosed.

#### Text

You have requested an advisory opinion from the Ethical Practices Board based upon the following:

#### Facts

As a Minnesota state senator, you sought endorsement for a federal office in 1976, and registered a principal campaign committee with the Federal Elections Committee as required by federal law. Your committee has excess funds.

#### Questions:

1. Under state law can a committee for a Congressional candidate that was used for the endorsement campaign transfer funds from that committee to a committee set up for a statewide office if the money is excess campaign funds and is registered under federal law?

2. Under state law can a committee established for a legislative race, raise campaign funds and later transfer those funds to a committee set up primarily for a statewide office?

3. If the answer to the above questions is yes, what are the transfer limits for a non-election year and also for an election year transfer?

4. If campaign funds can be transferred from a Congressional or legislative committee is it necessary to disclose the names of the contributors of the transferring committee?

#### Opinion

1. Yes. In the opinion of the Board, excess campaign funds, which are registered under federal law, may be transferred from a committee for a Congressional candidate to a committee of that candidate set up for a statewide office.

2 U.S.C. 439a provides:

Amounts received by a candidate as contributions that are in excess of any amount necessary to defray his expenditures, and any other amounts contributed to an individual for the purpose of supporting his activities as a holder of federal office, may be used by such candidate or individual, as the case

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

may be, to defray any ordinary and necessary expenses incurred by him in connection with his duties as a holder of federal office, may be contributed by him to any organization described in section 170 (c) of Title 26 of the U. S. Code [pertaining to charitable contributions], or may be used for any other lawful purpose.

It is lawful to contribute to a committee set up for a statewide office under state law. See Minn. Stat. § 10A.15 (1976). But see subdivision 3 below. Under Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 7, "contribution" is defined to include "(b) A transfer of funds between political committees or political funds. . . ."

2. Yes. In the opinion of the Board, under state law campaign funds raised by a committee established for a state legislative race may be transferred to a committee set up primarily for a statewide office. Because Minn. Stat. § 10A.01, subd. 7, defines "contribution" to include "(b) A transfer of funds between political committees . . ." such funds may be contributed to the committee set up primarily for a statewide office under Minn. Stat. § 10A. (1976). Moreover, the transfer of funds from the legislative campaign committee would not be classified as expenditures for purposes of Minn. Stat. § 10A.25 (1976). See Minn. Stat. § 10A.26 (1976). But see subdivision 3 below.

3. Minn. Stat. § 10A.26 provides:

**TRANSFERS OF FUNDS EXPECTED.** Any transfer of funds or anything of pecuniary value from any political committee, political fund or political party to a principal campaign committee of a candidate shall not be considered to be an expenditure of funds on behalf of the candidate by the political committee, political fund or political party, but shall be reported as required by Laws 1974, Chapter 470.

Because of that section, any amounts transferred do not count as expenditures. However, Minn. Stat. § 10A.27, subd. 1 provides:

**ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.** Subdivision 1. No political committee, political fund, or individual, except a political party or the principal campaign committee of a candidate shall make expenditures on behalf or in opposition to the opponent of a candidate, or transfer funds to the principal campaign committee of a candidate, in an amount in excess of ten percent of the amount that may be spent by or on behalf of that candidate as set forth in section 10A.25.

Therefore, although the amount transferred does not count as an expenditure under Minn. Stat. § 10A.25, the total amount that may be transferred is fixed. During an election year, the transfer is limited to ten percent of the expenditure limits contained in Minn. Stat. § 10A.25, subd. 2; during a non-election year, the transfer is limited to ten percent of the

expenditure limits contained in Minn. Stat. § 10A.25, subd. 6, which, when computed, is two percent of the expenditure limits of Minn. Stat. § 10A.25, subd. 2. This limitation applies to transfers both from a committee for a Congressional candidate as well as from a committee for a legislative candidate. Under Minn. Stat. § 10A.19 (1976) a candidate may have only one principal campaign committee at one time. When an individual ceases to be a candidate for a legislative office and becomes a candidate for a statewide office, and he accordingly designates and causes to be formed a principal campaign committee for the statewide office, his previous campaign committee for legislative office ceases to be a principal campaign committee by force of law.

4. Yes. Under federal law, 2 U.S.C. 439a, excess amounts received as contributions by a candidate for federal office may be used by the candidate for any lawful purpose. Some contributions that are lawful under federal law are prohibited under state law. For example, Minn. Stat. § 210A.34 prohibits campaign contributions from any corporation doing business in this state, whereas corporate contributions are permitted under federal law.<sup>1</sup> In addition, under state law, Minn. Stat. § 10A.27 limits the amount a political committee, political fund, or individual may expend or contribute on behalf of a candidate to 10 percent of the limits contained in 10A.25. Disclosure of the names of the contributors of the transferring committee<sup>2</sup> is necessary to determine whether, under federal and state law, the transfer is money from a lawful source and to ensure that the contribution limits of 10A.27 have not been exceeded.

1. 2 U.S.C. 441a prohibits any person from making contributions to any candidate in excess of \$1,000. Under 2 U.S.C. 431(h), a "person" is defined to include any corporation.

2. Minn. Stat. § 10A.22, states:

Subd. 6. The treasurer of a political committee or political fund shall not accept a contribution of more than \$100 from a political committee or political fund not registered in this state unless the contribution is accompanied by a written statement which meets the disclosure requirements imposed by section 10A.20. This statement shall be certified as true and correct by an officer of the contributing committee or political fund. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply when the national affiliate of any political party in this state transfers money to its state affiliate and that money is expended by the state political party on behalf of candidates of that party generally, without referring to any of them specifically, in any advertisement published or posted, on any broadcast, or in any telephone conversation if that conversation mentions three or more candidates.

(1974 c 470 s 22; 1976 c 307 s 35)

## Department of Transportation

### Phase 11 Public Meetings on the State Transportation Plan

Information meetings on the State Transportation Plan are

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

being conducted in each of the State's development regions by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). The purpose of the plan is to present the policy positions of the regional task forces that have been assisting the Department in the development of the Plan. The schedule for the remaining meetings is:

<i>Region</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
RDC 2	December 1	Bemidji	7:30 p.m.	J. W. Smith Elementary School 18th Street & America Avenue
RDC 3	November 21	Grand Rapids	7:30 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers 420 Pokegama North
RDC 3	November 22	Duluth	7:30 p.m.	First United Methodist Church Lakeview Room Skyline Parkway & Central Entrance
RDC 4	November 30	Fergus Falls	7:00 p.m.	Fergus Falls Community College Science Auditorium Old Highway 210 West
RDC 5	December 8	Brainerd	7:00 p.m.	Crow Wing County Service Building Meeting Room 1 Behind County Courthouse on Laurel
RDC 6W	December 1	Appleton	7:30 p.m.	Civic Center 323 West Schlieman Avenue
RDC 6E	December 1	Litchfield	7:30 p.m.	Meeker County Courthouse
RDC 7W	December 7	St. Cloud	7:00 p.m.	City Hall Annex Fourth Avenue North
RDC 7E	December 5	Mora	7:00 p.m.	Mora City Library 200 West Maple Avenue
RDC 8	December 1	Slayton	7:30 p.m.	Murray County Courthouse Annex South of County Courthouse on Broadway
RDC 9	December 7	Mankato	8:00 p.m.	Region 9 Office 120 South Broad Street
RDC 10	November 17	Rochester	7:30 p.m.	Marquette Bank Building Room 301 Broadway & Second Avenue S.E.

Questions should be directed to:

Peter Fausch  
Director of Transportation Development  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Or call: 612-296-3158

## ERRATA

1. 1 SR 187: change "A stepparent is legally responsible" to "A stepparent is a potential resource", at DPW 44 D.11.a.



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