10A.273 CONTRIBUTIONS AND SOLICITATIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

Subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.** (a) A candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or an association not registered with the board during a regular session of the legislature.

(b) A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or an association not registered with the board must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.

(c) Regardless of when made, a contribution made by a lobbyist, political committee, or political fund in order to attend an event that occurs during a regular session of the legislature and that is held by the principal campaign committee of a candidate for the legislature or constitutional office, or by a political party organization within a body of the legislature, is a violation of this section.

(d) Regardless of when made, a contribution from a lobbyist, political committee, or political fund for membership or access to a facility operated during the regular session of the legislature by the principal campaign committee of a candidate for the legislature or constitutional office, or by a political party organization within a body of the legislature, is a violation of this section.

Subd. 2. **Party unit solicitations.** A political party unit must not solicit or receive at an event hosted by a candidate for the legislature or by a candidate for constitutional office a contribution from a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit during a regular session of the legislature.

Subd. 3. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, a "regular session" starts at 12:00 a.m., on the first day of each annual session and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of each annual session. For purposes of this section, regular session does not include a special session or the interim between the two annual sessions of a biennium.

Subd. 4. **Civil penalty.** A candidate, political committee, party unit, political fund, an association not registered with the board, or a registered lobbyist that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to $1,000. If the board makes a public finding that there is probable cause to believe a violation of this section has occurred, the board may bring an action, or transmit the finding to a county attorney who must bring an action, in the District Court of Ramsey County, to collect a civil penalty as imposed by the board. Penalties paid under this section must be deposited in the general fund in the state treasury.

Subd. 5. **Special election.** This section does not apply in a legislative special election during the period beginning when the person becomes a candidate in the special election and ending on the day of the special election.

History: *1990 c 608 art 3 s 4; 1991 c 349 s 9,10; 1993 c 318 art 2 s 6,7; 1994 c 377 s 3,4; 1999 c 220 s 8-10,50; 2002 c 363 s 31-33; 2013 c 138 art 3 s 7,8; 2015 c 73 s 16,17; 2018 c 119 s 30; 2023 c 62 art 5 s 40*