200.56 PRESUIT NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. **Notice required.** (a) Except as provided in this section, before filing an action a prospective plaintiff shall send a notice letter to the political subdivision identifying the potential violation, the affected protected class, and the type of remedy the potential plaintiff believes may address the potential violation. The party may not file an action related to the violations described in the notice letter until its receipt of a written denial by the political subdivision or within 60 days after sending the letter, whichever is earlier.

(b) A notice letter required by paragraph (a) must identify a potential violation of section 200.54 with specificity, including whether the prospective plaintiff believes the potential violation constitutes voter suppression under section 200.54, subdivision 1, vote dilution under section 200.54, subdivision 2, or both. The letter must include the relevant facts and evidence that the prospective plaintiff relied upon when evaluating whether a potential violation of section 200.54 exists.

Subd. 2. **When presuit notice is not required.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, a notice letter is not required if:

(1) the party is seeking preliminary relief with respect to an upcoming election in accordance with section 200.57;

(2) the party is seeking to intervene in or join an existing action; or

(3) following the party's submission of a notice letter, the political subdivision enacted a remedy that would not remedy the violation identified in the letter.

Subd. 3. **Responsibility of parties.** The political subdivision shall respond in writing to a notice letter submitted under subdivision 1 within 60 days. If the political subdivision does not deny the potential violation, it must work in good faith with the party that submitted the letter to explore and implement any mutually agreed upon remedies to cure the potential violation. If the political subdivision adopts a resolution within 60 days of the filing of the letter identifying a remedy, affirming its intent to enact and implement a remedy, and establishing a timeline and specific steps it will take to do so, the political subdivision shall have 150 days from the submission of the letter to enact and implement a remedy, during which time the party who sent the letter may not file an action related to those violations against that political subdivision. A statement, action, or decision of a political subdivision under this subdivision does not constitute an admission by the political subdivision of its liability or establish the existence of a violation of section 200.54.

Subd. 4. **Approval of remedies.** If the political subdivision lacks authority to enact or implement an identified remedy, the political subdivision may nonetheless enact and implement the remedy upon approval by the district court. To seek approval, the political subdivision must file a petition in district court that identifies with specificity the law or other authority that prevents the remedy from being enacted or implemented. The venue for a petition under this subdivision is in the district court of the county where the challenged act or practice occurred, or in the District Court of Ramsey County. The district court may authorize the political subdivision to implement or enact the identified remedy notwithstanding the applicable law or authority to the contrary, if the court determines that the prospective plaintiff is likely to succeed in a lawsuit on the merits of the alleged violation; that the proposed remedy would address the alleged violation; and that the proposed remedy is narrowly tailored to that purpose.

Subd. 5. **Cost sharing.** (a) If a political subdivision enacts or implements a remedy in response to a notice letter submitted under subdivision 1, the political subdivision and the party who sent the notice letter must mutually agree on a reimbursement amount to be paid by the political subdivision to that party. The

reimbursement amount must reflect the reasonable costs associated with producing and sending the letter and any accompanying evidence, subject to the limitations of this subdivision.

(b) To be eligible for a reimbursement, the party who submitted the notice letter must submit a request to the political subdivision in writing. The request must:

(1) be received by the political subdivision within 30 days of its enactment or adoption of the remedy; and

(2) be substantiated with financial documentation including, as applicable, detailed invoices for expert analysis and reasonable attorney fees.

(c) The cumulative amount of reimbursements to all parties must not exceed $30,000. Reimbursement amounts for attorney fees are limited to amounts calculated using a lodestar methodology.

(d) To the extent a party requests reimbursement for a purported notice letter that fails to comply with the requirements in subdivision 1, or the request fails to comply with this subdivision, the political subdivision may dismiss the request. If the request is dismissed, the political subdivision must notify the party in writing of the reasons for the dismissal.

History: *2024 c 112 art 3 s 6*