

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 524

DATE: March 17, 2007

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Peterson, N. and others

Subject: Campaign Finance Reporting; "Electioneering Communication"

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill defines "electioneering communication" and modifies certain campaign finance reporting requirements. It also establishes a work group to study the feasibility of an internet-based reporting and public subsidy payment system.

Section

- 1** **Electioneering Communication.** Establishes a definition of "electioneering communication" in Chapter 10A. Electioneering communication includes communication that refers to a clearly identified candidate, made between the primary and general election. News broadcasts, commentaries, and editorials are not included, unless the broadcasting station is owned or controlled by a political party unit, committee, or candidate. Campaign expenditures are also not "electioneering communication."
- 2** **Initial Registration.** Shortens the deadline for initial registration of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. Under current law, these organizations must register with the Board within 14 days of receiving a contribution or making a contribution or expenditure of more than \$100. This bill requires registration within 48 hours after a contribution or expenditure of more than \$100.
- 3** **Coordinated Communication.** Requires that any expenditure by an individual, committee, fund, or party unit made for an electioneering communication coordinated with a principal campaign committee or party unit be counted both as a contribution to, and an expenditure by the principal campaign committee of the candidate named in the communication.
- 4** **Electioneering Communication.** Requires that any individual, committee, fund, or party

Section

unit that makes or contracts to make an expenditure for electioneering communication that, in total, costs more than \$500, file a report with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board within 24 hours of public distribution of the communication.

The report must include: 1) the amount of each expenditure over \$100 along with the name and address of the person receiving the expenditure, and the purpose of the expenditure; 2) the election to which each electioneering communication pertains, and the name of the candidate identified in the communication; and 3) the name, address, and employer or occupation of the individual, if applicable.

Additional reports must be filed within 24 hours of any new expenditure that meets the above requirements.

- 5** **Internet Reporting Study.** Requires the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to study the feasibility of creating an online campaign finance reporting and public subsidy payment system. The completed report must be submitted to the specified house and senate committees by January 15, 2008.