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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION**

HOUSE FILE NO. 237

January 22, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

February 5, 2007

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended

Read Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; requiring preelection reports of certain contributions to
1.3 political committees, political funds, and party units; changing preelection
1.4 reporting requirements for contributions to candidates; increasing contribution
1.5 limits for candidates for secretary of state or state auditor; advancing deadline
1.6 to file affidavit of contributions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections
1.7 10A.14, subdivision 1; 10A.20, subdivision 5; 10A.27, subdivision 1; 10A.323.

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

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 10A.14, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.10 Subdivision 1. **First registration.** The treasurer of a political committee, political
1.11 fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit must register with the board by filing a
1.12 statement of organization no later than 14 days after the committee, fund, or party unit has
1.13 made a contribution, received contributions, or made expenditures in excess of \$100, or
1.14 within 24 hours after it has received a loan or contribution that must be reported under
1.15 section 10A.20, subdivision 5, whichever is earlier.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 10A.20, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

1.17 Subd. 5. **Preelection reports.** Any loan, contribution, or contributions to a political
1.18 committee, political fund, or party unit from any one source totaling \$800 or more, or
1.19 in a statewide election any loan, contribution, or contributions to a candidate from any
1.20 one source totaling ~~\$2,000~~ \$800 or more, or to a candidate in any judicial district or
1.21 legislative election totaling more than \$400, received between the last day covered in the
1.22 last report before an election and the election must be reported to the board in one of
1.23 the following ways:

1.24 (1) in person within ~~48~~ 24 hours after its receipt;

- 2.1 ~~(2) by telegram or mailgram within 48 hours after its receipt;~~
2.2 ~~(3) by certified mail sent within 48 hours after its receipt; or~~
2.3 ~~(4)~~(2) by electronic means sent within ~~48~~ 24 hours after its receipt.

2.4 These loans and contributions must also be reported in the next required report.

2.5 The ~~48-hour~~ 24-hour notice requirement does not apply with respect to a primary in
2.6 which the statewide or legislative candidate is unopposed.

2.7 The board must post the report on its Web site within 24 hours after it is received.

2.8 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 10A.27, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.9 Subdivision 1. **Contribution limits.** (a) Except as provided in subdivision 2,
2.10 a candidate must not permit the candidate's principal campaign committee to accept
2.11 aggregate contributions made or delivered by any individual, political committee, or
2.12 political fund in excess of the following:

2.13 (1) to candidates for governor and lieutenant governor running together, \$2,000 in
2.14 an election year for the office sought and \$500 in other years;

2.15 (2) to a candidate for attorney general, secretary of state, or state auditor, \$1,000 in
2.16 an election year for the office sought and \$200 in other years;

2.17 ~~(3) to a candidate for the office of secretary of state or state auditor, \$500 in an~~
2.18 ~~election year for the office sought and \$100 in other years;~~

2.19 ~~(4)~~ to a candidate for state senator, \$500 in an election year for the office sought and
2.20 \$100 in other years; and

2.21 ~~(5)~~ (4) to a candidate for state representative, \$500 in an election year for the office
2.22 sought and \$100 in the other year.

2.23 (b) The following deliveries are not subject to the bundling limitation in this
2.24 subdivision:

2.25 (1) delivery of contributions collected by a member of the candidate's principal
2.26 campaign committee, such as a block worker or a volunteer who hosts a fund-raising
2.27 event, to the committee's treasurer; and

2.28 (2) a delivery made by an individual on behalf of the individual's spouse.

2.29 (c) A lobbyist, political committee, political party unit, or political fund must not
2.30 make a contribution a candidate is prohibited from accepting.

2.31 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 10A.323, is amended to read:

2.32 **10A.323 AFFIDAVIT OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**

2.33 In addition to the requirements of section 10A.322, to be eligible to receive a public
2.34 subsidy under section 10A.31 a candidate or the candidate's treasurer must file an affidavit

3.1 with the board stating that during that calendar year the candidate has accumulated
3.2 contributions from persons eligible to vote in this state in at least the amount indicated for
3.3 the office sought, counting only the first \$50 received from each contributor:

3.4 (1) candidates for governor and lieutenant governor running together, \$35,000;

3.5 (2) candidates for attorney general, \$15,000;

3.6 (3) candidates for secretary of state and state auditor, separately, \$6,000;

3.7 (4) candidates for the senate, \$3,000; and

3.8 (5) candidates for the house of representatives, \$1,500.

3.9 The affidavit must state the total amount of contributions that have been received
3.10 from persons eligible to vote in this state, disregarding the portion of any contribution in
3.11 excess of \$50.

3.12 The candidate or the candidate's treasurer must submit the affidavit required by this
3.13 section to the board in writing by ~~September 1 of the general election year~~ the deadline for
3.14 reporting receipts and expenditures before a primary under section 10A.20, subdivision 2.

3.15 A candidate for a vacancy to be filled at a special election for which the filing period
3.16 does not coincide with the filing period for the general election must submit the affidavit
3.17 required by this section to the board within five days after filing the affidavit of candidacy.

3.18 **Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3.19 This act is effective July 1, 2007, and applies to contributions made on or after
3.20 that date.