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SENATE BILL NO. 296

INTRODUCED BY S. DOHERTY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A CANDIDATE'S ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE CONTENT OF THE TEXT OF A POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY AN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE MADE ON THE CANDIDATE'S BEHALF; AND REQUIRING THE CANDIDATE'S ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION TO APPEAR AS PART OF THE COMMUNICATION."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Acceptance or rejection of content of independent advertisements.**

(1) Whenever a person proposes to make an expenditure for the purpose of financing a communication, advocating the success or defeat of a candidate or that refers to a candidate, that is independent of the candidate or a political committee organized on the candidate's behalf, the text of the communication must be presented to the candidate prior to the publication or broadcast of the communication. The candidate shall accept or reject the content of the communication and file the acceptance or rejection with the commissioner of political practices within 2 days of receipt of the text of the communication. At the time of filing, the candidate shall notify the person proposing to make the independent expenditure. If a candidate does not file the statement within 2 days, the candidate is considered to have rejected the content of the communication. The candidate's acceptance or rejection of the content of the communication must appear as part of the communication.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to communications made after the primary election and before the general election.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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