

HOUSE BILL NO. 468

INTRODUCED BY GILLAN, BRANAE, COONEY, ELLINGSON, ERICKSON, FUCHS, GIBSON, MAHLUM,
NELSON, SCHMIDT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING WHAT INFORMATION MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ELECTION MATERIALS; REQUIRING PRINTED ELECTION MATERIALS THAT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING RECORDS TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND A SIGNED STATEMENT ATTESTING TO THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION; PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE STATE SEAL ON ELECTION MATERIALS; AND AMENDING SECTION 13-35-225, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 13-35-225, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-35-225. Election materials not to be anonymous -- statement of accuracy -- prohibition. (1)

Whenever a person makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing communications advocating the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or ballot issue through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, direct mailing, poster, handbill, bumper sticker, or other form of general political advertising, the communication must clearly and conspicuously state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication, including in the case of a political committee; the name and address of the treasurer. Communications in a partisan election financed by a candidate or a political committee organized on the candidate's behalf must state the candidate's party affiliation or include the party symbol.

(2) (a) Printed election material described in subsection (1) that includes information about a candidate's voting record must include a REFERENCE TO THE PARTICULAR VOTE OR VOTES UPON WHICH THE INFORMATION IS BASED AND A statement, signed as provided in subsection (2)(b), that to the best of the signer's knowledge, the statements made about the candidate's voting record are accurate and true.

(b) The statement required under subsection (2)(a) must be signed:

(i) by the candidate, if the election material was prepared for the candidate or the candidate's political committee and includes information about another candidate's voting record; or

(ii) by the person financing the communication OR THE PERSON'S LEGAL AGENT, if the election material was not prepared for a candidate or a candidate's political committee.

(3) The state seal may not be used in any election material described in subsection (1).

(4) If a document or other article of advertising is too small for the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) to be conveniently included, the candidate responsible for the material or the person financing the communication shall file a copy of the article with the commissioner of political practices, together with the required information or statement, prior to AT THE TIME OF its public distribution.

(5) If information required in subsections (1) and (2) is inadvertently omitted or not printed, upon discovering discovery or notification about the omission, the candidate responsible for the material or the person financing the communication shall:

(a) file notification of the omission with the commissioner within 5 days of the discovery or notification; and make every reasonable effort to

(b) bring the material into compliance with subsection (1) within 2 weeks; and

(c) withdraw any noncompliant communication from circulation as soon as reasonably possible."

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