

**10A.273 CONTRIBUTIONS AND SOLICITATIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

Subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.** (a) A candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or from a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, during a regular session of the legislature.

(b) A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.

Subd. 2. **Party unit solicitations.** A political party unit must not solicit or receive at an event hosted by a candidate for the legislature or by a candidate for constitutional office a contribution from a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit during a regular session of the legislature.

Subd. 3. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "regular session" does not include a special session or the interim between the two annual sessions of a biennium.

Subd. 4. **Civil penalty.** A candidate, political committee, party unit, political fund, principal campaign committee, or registered lobbyist that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000. If the board makes a public finding that there is probable cause to believe a violation of this section has occurred, the board must bring an action, or transmit the finding to a county attorney who must bring an action, in the District Court of Ramsey County, to collect a civil penalty as imposed by the board. Penalties paid under this section must be deposited in the general fund in the state treasury.

Subd. 5. **Special election.** This section does not apply in a legislative special election during the period beginning when the person becomes a candidate in the special election and ending on the day of the special election.

**History:** 1990 c 608 art 3 s 4; 1991 c 349 s 9,10; 1993 c 318 art 2 s 6,7; 1994 c 377 s 3,4; 1999 c 220 s 8-10,50; 2002 c 363 s 31-33