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SECRETARY OF STATE

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March 18, 2021

TO: Chairman Vedaa and Members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
FR: Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State on behalf of Secretary of State Al Jaeger
RE: HB 1191 – Reporting expenditures about candidates by multicandidate committees

This bill attempts to place new disclosure requirements applying only to multicandidate committees. When a multicandidate committee makes an expenditure in support of or opposition to a candidate, the committee must disclose the expenditure on the next campaign disclosure statement submitted by the committee. As part of that disclosure, the multicandidate committee must disclose:

1. The expenditure category (e.g., Advertising and others found in NDCC § 16.1-08.1-01(8))
2. The amount of the expenditure
3. The name of the candidate the expenditure supports or opposes; and
4. The support or opposition stance.

During the 2020 election year, there were 548 different filers. Of those filers, 33 were multicandidate committees. In 2021, there are 27 multicandidate committees. On the second page of my testimony, I have provided the names and locations of the multicandidate committees registered so far in 2021 that would be impacted by this bill. As you will see, multicandidate committees are used by both political parties.

Our office was not asked to submit a fiscal note on this bill, but it will require a modification to the system so that multicandidate committees are able to disclose expenditures made during the calendar dates covered by the disclosure statement. Our office estimates that the cost of the enhancement to our system would cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

If the Committee members decide to give this bill a do pass, I would ask that the Committee also recommend that the Secretary of State be appropriated such funds as would be necessary to pay for this enhancement.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration.

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(Page 2 Testimony on HB 1191)

2021 Registered Multicandidate Committees

Committee Name	City	State
3R Club	Wahpeton	ND
BisManDems	Mercer	ND
Bismarck Area Republican Council	Bismarck	ND
Cass County Democratic Women Plus	Fargo	ND
Cass County Democratic-NPL of North Dakota	Fargo	ND
Cass County United Republican Committee	Fargo	ND
College Democrats of North Dakota	Grand Forks	ND
Dakota Leadership PAC	Fargo	ND
Dakotans for Honesty in Politics	Hillsboro	ND
District 13 Republican Candidates	West Fargo	ND
Friends of District 21	Fargo	ND
Gfrw	Grand Forks	ND
Grand Forks United Republican Party	Grand Forks	ND
Greater Grand Forks Area Democratic-NPL Party	Grand Forks	ND
House Republican Leadership Fund	Bismarck	ND
Legislative Victory Fund	Fargo	ND
Minot Area Republicans Council	Minot	ND
Minot Republican Women	Minot	ND
ND Dem-NPL House Caucus	Fargo	ND
ND District 3 Conservatives	Minot	ND
NDSU College Republicans	Fargo	ND
North Dakota College Republicans	Grand Forks	ND
North Dakota Senate Republican Caucus	Minot	ND
North Dakota Young Republicans	LINCOLN	ND
North Dakota Young Republicans Northeast Region	Lincoln	ND
Republican House Caucus	Bismarck	ND
UND College Republicans	Grand Forks	ND