

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1377

Introduced by

Representatives D. Ruby, Henderson, Kasper, Kempenich, Koppelman, Wolff

Senators Boehm, Hogue, Myrdal, Wobbema

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact chapter 16.1-08.2 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to campaign disclosure statements; to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-08,
3 15.1-09-19, and 16.1-01-12, subdivision b of subsection 2 of section 16.1-10-02, section
4 16.1-10-04.1, subdivision f of subsection 8 of section 51-28-01, subsection 11 of section
5 54-66-01, and section 54-66-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to campaign
6 disclosure statements, authorized use of state property for political purposes, and inflationary
7 adjustments for campaign finance reporting thresholds; to repeal chapter 16.1-08.1 of the North
8 Dakota Century Code, relating to campaign disclosure statements; to provide a penalty; to
9 provide for application; and to provide an effective date.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

11 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-09-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **15.1-09-08. School district elections - Candidate filings.**

14 An individual seeking election to the board of a school district shall prepare and sign a
15 document stating the individual's name and the position for which that individual is a candidate.
16 A candidate shall also file a statement of interests as required by section 16.1-09-02. Whether
17 or not the election is held in conjunction with a statewide election, all statements of interest
18 must be filed with the school district business manager, or mailed to and in the possession of
19 the business manager, by four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before the election. A candidate shall
20 also file a campaign contribution statement as required by section ~~16.1-08.1-02.3~~16.1-08.2-03.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-09-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15.1-09-19. Duties of election officials - Other applicable statutes.**

2 Sections ~~16.1-08.1-03.3~~16.1-08.2-07, 16.1-10-01, 16.1-10-06, 16.1-10-06.1, 16.1-10-07,
3 16.1-10-08, 16.1-13-22, 16.1-13-23, 16.1-13-30, 16.1-15-01, 16.1-15-04, and 16.1-16-04 apply
4 to elections held under sections 15.1-09-09 and 15.1-09-11.

5 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-01-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **16.1-01-12. Election offenses - Penalty.**

8 1. It is unlawful for an individual, measure committee as described in section
9 ~~16.1-08.1-04~~16.1-08.2-01, or other organization to:

- 10 a. Fraudulently alter another individual's ballot, substitute one ballot for another, or
11 otherwise defraud a voter of that voter's vote.
- 12 b. Cause a disturbance, breach the peace, or obstruct a qualified elector or a
13 member of the election board on the way to or at a polling place.
- 14 c. Vote more than once in any election.
- 15 d. Knowingly vote in the wrong election precinct or district.
- 16 e. Disobey the lawful command of an election officer as defined in chapter 16.1-05.
- 17 f. Knowingly exclude a qualified elector from voting or knowingly allow an
18 unqualified individual to vote.
- 19 g. Knowingly vote when not qualified to do so.
- 20 h. Sign an initiative, referendum, recall, or any other election petition when not
21 qualified to do so.
- 22 i. Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or any other election petition not in its
23 entirety or when unqualified to do so.
- 24 j. Pay or offer to pay any individual, measure committee, or other organization, or
25 receive payment or agree to receive payment, on a basis related to the number
26 of signatures obtained for circulating an initiative, referendum, or recall petition.
27 This subsection does not prohibit the payment of salary and expenses for
28 circulation of the petition on a basis not related to the number of signatures
29 obtained, as long as the circulators file the intent to remunerate before submitting
30 the petitions and, in the case of initiative and referendum petitions, fully disclose
31 all contributions received pursuant to chapter ~~16.1-08.1~~16.1-08.2 to the secretary

of state upon submission of the petitions. The disclosure of contributions received under this section does not affect the requirement to file a pre-election report by individuals or organizations soliciting or accepting contributions for the purpose of aiding or opposing the circulation or passage of a statewide initiative or referendum petition or measure placed upon a statewide ballot by action of the legislative assembly under chapter ~~46.1-08.1~~16.1-08.2. Any signature obtained in violation of this subdivision is void and may not be counted.

k. Willfully fail to perform any duty of an election officer after having accepted the responsibility of being an election officer by taking the oath as prescribed in this title.

l. Willfully violate any rule adopted by the secretary of state pursuant to this title.

m. Willfully make any false canvass of votes, or make, sign, publish, or deliver any false return of an election, knowing the canvass or return to be false; or willfully deface, destroy, or conceal any statement or certificate entrusted to the individual's or organization's care.

n. Destroy ballots, ballot boxes, election lists, or other election supplies except as provided by law, or negatively impact the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of any system used for voting.

o. Sign a name other than that individual's own name to an initiative, referendum, recall, or any other election petition.

p. Willfully submit an initiative or referendum petition that contains one or more fraudulent signatures.

2. a. A violation of subdivisions b, e, f, or h through l of subsection 1 is a class A misdemeanor.

b. A violation of subdivisions a, c, d, g, or m of subsection 1 is a class C felony.

c. A violation of subdivision n of subsection 1 is a class C felony.

d. A violation of subdivision o of subsection 1 is a class A misdemeanor if an individual signs one or two names other than the individual's own name to a petition and is a class C felony if an individual signs more than two names other than the individual's own name to a petition.

- 1 e. An organization, as defined in section 12.1-03-04, that violates this section is
2 subject to the organizational fines in section 12.1-32-01.1. The court in which the
3 conviction is entered shall notify the secretary of state of the conviction and shall
4 order the secretary of state to revoke the certificate of authority of any convicted
5 organization or limited liability company. The organization may not reapply to the
6 secretary of state for authorization to do business under any name for one year
7 upon conviction of a class A misdemeanor and for five years upon conviction of a
8 class C felony under this section, except an organization operating a signature
9 gathering business, or similar enterprise, that violates subdivision p of
10 subsection 1, and is convicted of fraud, is subject to a class A misdemeanor and
11 may not reapply to the secretary of state for authorization to do business under
12 any name for five years following the entry of judgment.
- 13 f. A violation of subdivision p of subsection 1 by any member of a measure
14 committee, including an initiative or referendum sponsoring committee or an
15 agent acting on behalf of, or in conjunction with, a measure committee for the
16 purpose of collecting signatures for a petition under this chapter is subject to a
17 civil penalty of not more than three thousand dollars. The civil penalty may be
18 recovered in an action brought in the district court of Burleigh County by the
19 attorney general.
- 20 g. An individual who is a member of an organization may be convicted of a violation
21 as an accomplice under section 12.1-03-01.

- 22 3. Every act this chapter makes criminal when committed with reference to the election of
23 a candidate is equally criminal when committed with reference to the determination of
24 a question submitted to qualified electors to be decided by votes cast at an election.

25 **SECTION 4.** Chapter 16.1-08.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
26 as follows:

27 **16.1-08.2-01. Definitions.**

- 28 1. "Affiliate" means an organization controlling, is controlled by, or is under common
29 control with another organization. For purposes of this definition, control means the
30 possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the
31 management and policies of an organization, whether through the ownership of voting

1 securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement
2 services, or otherwise. Control is presumed to exist if an organization, directly or
3 indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing
4 fifty percent or more of the voting securities of any other organization.

5 2. "Association" means any club, association, union, brotherhood, fraternity, organization,
6 or group of any kind of two or more persons, including labor unions, trade
7 associations, professional associations, or governmental associations, which is united
8 for any purpose, business, or object and which assesses any dues, membership fees,
9 or license fees in any amount, or which maintains a treasury fund in any amount. The
10 term does not include corporations, cooperative corporations, limited liability
11 companies, political committees, or political parties.

12 3. "Conduit" means a person that is not a political party, political committee, or candidate
13 and which receives a contribution of money and transfers the contribution to a
14 candidate, political party, or political committee when the contribution is designated
15 specifically for the candidate, political party, or political committee and the person has
16 no discretion as to the recipient and the amount transferred. The term includes a
17 transactional intermediary, including a credit card company or a money transfer
18 service paying or transferring money to a candidate on behalf of another person.

19 4. "Contribution" means a gift, transfer, conveyance, provision, receipt, subscription,
20 loan, advance, deposit of money, or anything of value, made for the purpose of
21 influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to public office or
22 aiding or opposing the circulation or passage of a statewide initiative or referendum
23 petition or measure. The term also means a contract, promise, or agreement, express
24 or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution for any of the
25 above purposes. The term includes funds deposited by a candidate for public office or
26 a political party or committee which are transferred or signed over to that candidate,
27 party, or committee from another candidate, party, or political committee or other
28 source including a conduit. The term "anything of value" includes any good or service
29 of more than a nominal value. The term "nominal value" means the cost, price, or
30 worth of the good or service is trivial, token, or of no appreciable value. The term
31 "contribution" does not include:

- 1 a. A loan of money from a bank or other lending institution made in the regular
- 2 course of business.
- 3 b. Time spent by volunteer campaign or political party workers.
- 4 c. Money or anything of value deposited for commercial transactions, including
- 5 rents, advertising, or sponsorships made as a part of a fair market value
- 6 bargained-for exchange.
- 7 d. Money or anything of value deposited for anything other than a political purpose.
- 8 e. Products or services for which the actual cost or fair market value are reimbursed
- 9 by a payment of money.
- 10 f. An independent expenditure.
- 11 g. The value of advertising paid by a political party, multicandidate political
- 12 committee, or caucus which is in support of a candidate.
- 13 h. In-kind contributions from a candidate to the candidate's campaign.
- 14 5. "Cooperative corporations", "corporations", and "limited liability companies" are as
- 15 defined in this code, and for purposes of this chapter "corporations" includes nonprofit
- 16 corporations. However, if a political committee, the only purpose of which is accepting
- 17 contributions and making expenditures for a political purpose, incorporates for liability
- 18 purposes only, the committee is not considered a corporation for the purposes of this
- 19 chapter.
- 20 6. "Expenditure" means:
- 21 a. A gift, transfer, conveyance, provision, loan, advance, payment, distribution,
- 22 disbursement, outlay, or deposit of money or anything of value, except a loan of
- 23 money from a bank or other lending institution made in the regular course of
- 24 business, made for a political purpose or for the purpose of influencing the
- 25 passage or defeat of a measure.
- 26 b. A contract, promise, or agreement, express or implied, whether or not legally
- 27 enforceable, to make any expenditure.
- 28 c. The transfer of funds by a political committee to another political committee.
- 29 d. An independent expenditure.
- 30 7. "Expenditure purpose" means the type of expense for which expenditures for a
- 31 political purpose occurred under this chapter.

- 1 8. "Foreign national" means:
 - 2 a. A government or country other than the United States.
 - 3 b. A political party organized under the laws of a country other than the United
4 States.
 - 5 c. A corporation, partnership, association, organization, or other combination of
6 persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a
7 country other than the United States.
 - 8 d. An individual with citizenship of a country other than the United States.
 - 9 e. An individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States and is not
10 admitted lawfully to the United States for permanent residence.
- 11 9. "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure made for a political purpose or for
12 the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of a measure if the expenditure is
13 made without the express or implied consent authorization, or cooperation of, and not
14 in concert with or at the request or suggestion of any candidate, committee, or political
15 party.
- 16 10. "Patron" means a person who owns equity interest in the form of stock, shares, or
17 membership or maintains similar financial rights in a cooperative corporation.
- 18 11. "Person" means an individual, partnership, political committee, association,
19 corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, or other organization or
20 group of persons.
- 21 12. "Personal benefit" means a benefit to the candidate or another person which is not for
22 a political purpose or related to a candidate's responsibilities as a public officeholder,
23 and any other benefit that would convert a contribution to personal income.
- 24 13. "Political committee" means any committee, club, association, or other group of
25 persons which receives contributions or makes expenditures for political purposes and
26 includes:
 - 27 a. A political action committee not connected to another organization and free to
28 solicit funds from the general public, or derived from a corporation, cooperative
29 corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or an association, which
30 solicits or receives contributions from its employees or members or makes
31 expenditures for political purposes on behalf of its employees or members;

- 1 b. A candidate committee established to support an individual candidate seeking
2 public office, which solicits or receives contributions for political purposes;
3 c. A political organization registered with the federal election commission, which
4 solicits or receives contributions or makes expenditures for political purposes;
5 d. A multicandidate political committee, including a caucus, established to support
6 multiple groups or slates of candidates seeking public office, which solicits or
7 receives contributions for political purposes; and
8 e. A measure committee, including an initiative or referendum sponsoring
9 committee at any stage of its organization, which solicits or receives contributions
10 or makes expenditures for the purpose of supporting or opposing an initiative or
11 referendum petition, or measure sought to be voted upon by the voters of the
12 state, including any activities undertaken for the purpose of drafting an initiative
13 or referendum petition, seeking approval of the secretary of state for the
14 circulation of a petition, or seeking approval of the submitted petitions.

15 14. "Political party" means any association, committee, or organization which nominates a
16 candidate for election to any office which may be filled by a vote of the electors of this
17 state or any of its political subdivisions and whose name appears on the election ballot
18 as the candidate of the association, committee, or organization.

19 15. "Political purpose" means any activity undertaken in support of or in opposition to the
20 election or nomination of a candidate to public office and includes using "vote for",
21 "oppose", or any similar support or opposition language in any advertisement whether
22 the activity is undertaken by a candidate, a political committee, a political party, or any
23 person. The term includes paying any expenses related to the election or nomination
24 of a candidate. This term does not include activities undertaken in the performance of
25 a duty of a public office or any position taken in any bona fide news story, commentary
26 or editorial.

27 16. "Public office" means every office to which an individual can be elected by vote of the
28 people under the laws of this state.

29 17. "Subsidiary" means an affiliate of a corporation under the control of the corporation
30 directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries.

18. "Ultimate and true source" means the person that knowingly contributed over two hundred fifty dollars solely to influence a statewide election or an election for the legislative assembly.

16.1-08.2-02. General provisions.

1. A political committee, except those defined in subdivision c of subsection 13 of section 16.1-08.2-01, shall register its name, mailing address, telephone number, and nongovernment-issued electronic mail address, and its agent's name, mailing address, telephone number, and nongovernment-issued electronic mail address, and a designation as to whether the committee is incorporated solely for the purpose of liability protection, with the secretary of state. A candidate who does not have a candidate committee shall register the candidate's name, mailing address, telephone number, and nongovernment-issued electronic mail address with the secretary of state. If the candidate has an agent, the candidate also shall register the agent's name, mailing address, telephone number, and nongovernment-issued electronic mail address with the secretary of state.

2. The registration required under this section for a candidate or political committee that has not previously registered with the secretary of state must be submitted within fifteen business days of the deposit date of any contribution or expenditure made.

3. A candidate or political committee required to be registered under this section shall register with the secretary of state each year during which the candidate holds public office or during which the political committee receives contributions, makes expenditures for political purposes, or has a balance in the campaign account. An individual who no longer holds public office or an individual who no longer seeks public office shall register with the secretary of state each year in which contributions are deposited, expenditures are made for political purposes, or a balance remains in the campaign account.

4. Any statement filed with the secretary of state under this chapter must be:

a. Filed electronically within the prescribed time and in the format established by the secretary of state. If the secretary of state does not receive a statement, an electronic duplicate of the statement must be filed promptly upon notice by the secretary of state of its nonreceipt. After a statement has been filed, the secretary

1 of state may request or accept written clarification along with an amended
2 statement from a candidate, political party, or political committee filing the
3 statement when discrepancies, errors, or omissions on the statement are
4 discovered by the secretary of state, the candidate, political party, or political
5 committee filing the statement, or by any interested party reciting a lawful reason
6 for requesting clarification and an amendment be made. When requesting an
7 amended statement, the secretary of state shall establish a reasonable period of
8 time, not to exceed ten days, agreed to by the candidate, political party, or
9 political committee, for filing the amended statement with the secretary of state.

10 b. Preserved by the secretary of state for a period of ten years from the date of the
11 filing deadline. The statement must be considered a part of the public records of
12 the secretary of state's office and must be open to public inspection on the
13 internet.

14 5. In determining the amount of individual contributions from any contributor, all amounts
15 deposited from the same contributor during the reporting period must be aggregated to
16 report an overall total contribution for the purposes of the statements required by this
17 chapter. Contributions made separately by different persons from joint accounts are
18 considered separate contributions for reporting purposes.

19 6. In determining the amount of expenditures to any recipient, all expenditures to the
20 same recipient during the reporting period must be aggregated to report an overall
21 total expenditure for the purposes of the statements required by this chapter.

22 7. In reporting a contribution deposited through a conduit, a candidate, political party, or
23 political committee shall list each reportable contribution identifying the person that
24 submitted the contribution to the conduit and provide the required information
25 regarding the contribution from that person rather than identifying the conduit as the
26 contributor.

27 8. A political committee organizing and registering according to federal law which makes
28 an independent expenditure or makes a disbursement in excess of two hundred fifty
29 dollars to a nonfederal candidate seeking public office, a political party, or political
30 committee shall report as a political committee according to sections 16.1-08.2-03 and
31 16.1-08.2-06.

- 1 9. To ensure accurate reporting and avoid commingling of campaign and personal funds,
2 candidates shall use dedicated campaign accounts that are separate from any
3 personal accounts.
- 4 10. Registration by a political committee under this section does not reserve the name for
5 exclusive use nor does it constitute registration of a trade name under chapter 47-25.
- 6 11. A candidate or candidate committee for a county office, city office, or school district
7 office are exempt from registering and filing with the secretary of state. Any other
8 person required to file a statement under this chapter shall file the statement with the
9 secretary of state.
- 10 a. A candidate for city office in a city with a population under five thousand and a
11 candidate committee for the candidate are exempt from this chapter. A candidate
12 for school district office in a school district with a fall enrollment of fewer than one
13 thousand students and a candidate committee for the candidate are exempt from
14 this chapter.
- 15 b. A candidate for county office and a candidate committee for a candidate for
16 county office shall file statements under this chapter with the county auditor. A
17 candidate for city office and a candidate committee for a candidate for city office
18 shall file statements under this chapter with the city auditor. A candidate for
19 school district office and a candidate committee for a candidate for school district
20 office shall file statements under this chapter with the school business manager.

21 **16.1-08.2-03. Pre-election, supplemental, and year-end campaign disclosure**
22 **statement requirements for candidates, candidate committees, multicandidate**
23 **committees, political committees, and political parties.**

- 24 1. Before a primary or special election, and before and following a general election, a
25 candidate or candidate committee formed on behalf of the candidate, a multicandidate
26 political committee, a political committee, or a political party soliciting or accepting
27 contributions shall file a campaign disclosure statement from:
- 28 a. January first through April thirtieth before a primary election.
29 b. May first through September thirtieth before a general election.
30 c. October first through December thirty-first following a general election.
31 d. January first through the fortieth day before a special election.

- 1 2. A candidate whose name is not on the ballot and who is not seeking election through
2 write-in votes, the candidate's candidate committee, and a political party that has not
3 endorsed or nominated any candidate in the election is not required to file a statement
4 under subsection 1, but is required to file a statement under subsection 6.
- 5 3. The statement before a primary, general, or special election under subsection 1 may
6 be submitted for filing beginning on the day following the end of the reporting period
7 and must be submitted before the eighth day following the reporting period. The
8 statement following the general election may be submitted for filing beginning on
9 January first and must be submitted before February first.
- 10 4. A statement filed under subsection 1 must include the following information:
 - 11 a. For each contribution deposited during the reporting period, the:
 - 12 (1) Name and the city and state of the contributor;
 - 13 (2) Total amount of the contribution; and
 - 14 (3) Date the last contributed amount was deposited.
 - 15 b. For each expenditure during the reporting period, the:
 - 16 (1) Name of the recipient and location of purchase;
 - 17 (2) Total amount of the expenditure made to the recipient;
 - 18 (3) Date of the expenditure; and
 - 19 (4) Expenditure purpose.
 - 20 c. The total of all contributions and expenditures which total in excess of two
21 hundred fifty dollars during the reporting period.
 - 22 d. The aggregated total of contributions and expenditures which are two hundred
23 fifty dollars or less during the reporting period.
 - 24 e. For a candidate, a candidate committee formed on behalf of a candidate, a
25 multicandidate committee, or a political party, the balance of the campaign fund
26 on the last day of the reporting period and the balance of the campaign fund on
27 the first day of the reporting period.
- 28 5. Beginning on May first before a primary election, October first before a general
29 election, and thirty-nine days before a special election through the day before the
30 election, a person filing a statement under subsection 1 must file a supplemental
31 statement within forty-eight hours of the start of the day following the deposit of a

1 contribution or aggregate contribution from a contributor which is in excess of five
2 hundred dollars. The statement must include the:

3 a. Name and the city and state of the contributor;

4 b. Total amount of the contribution deposited during the reporting period; and

5 c. Date the last contributed amount was deposited.

6 6. Before February first, a candidate whose name is not on the ballot and who is not
7 seeking election through write-in votes or the candidate's candidate committee, a
8 multicandidate political committee, a political committee, or a political party soliciting or
9 accepting contributions not required to file a statement under subsection 1 shall file a
10 campaign disclosure statement including all contributions deposited and expenditures
11 made from January first through December thirty-first of the previous year. The
12 statement may be submitted for filing beginning on January first. The filer shall indicate
13 on the report the corresponding reporting period, as described under section 1, in
14 which each contribution was deposited and expenditure was made to determine
15 whether the filer's aggregated totals exceed two hundred fifty dollars for the reporting
16 period. The statement filed according to this section must include the following
17 information:

18 a. For a candidate, a candidate committee formed on behalf of a candidate, a
19 multicandidate committee, or political party, the balance of the campaign fund on
20 January first and on December thirty-first.

21 b. For each contribution deposited during the reporting period, the:

22 (1) Name and the city and state of the contributor;

23 (2) Total amount of the contribution; and

24 (3) Date the last contributed amount was deposited.

25 c. For each expenditure during the reporting period, the:

26 (1) Name of the recipient and location of purchase;

27 (2) Total amount of the expenditure made to the recipient;

28 (3) Date of the expenditure; and

29 (4) Expenditure purpose.

30 d. The total of all contributions and expenditures which total in excess of two
31 hundred fifty dollars during the reporting period.

1 e. The aggregated total of contributions and expenditures which are two hundred
2 fifty dollars or less during the reporting period.

3 7. Contributions and expenditures of two hundred fifty dollars or less in the aggregate
4 filed under this section are exempt records under chapter 44-04 and reported as part
5 of aggregate totals only.

6 8. A candidate, a candidate committee formed on behalf of a candidate, or a
7 multicandidate committee for county office, city office, or school district office shall
8 report aggregated contributions and expenditures of two hundred fifty dollars or less
9 under this section.

10 9. A person required to file a statement under this section shall report each aggregated
11 contribution from a contributor which totals five thousand dollars or more during the
12 reporting period. For these contributions from individuals, the statement must include
13 the contributor's occupation, employer, and the employer's principal place of business.

14 10. A political committee that qualifies as a nonprofit entity under section 501(c)(4) of the
15 Internal Revenue Code [26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4)] is not required to disclose the
16 information under this section.

17 11. A political committee that registers according to federal law and files a campaign
18 disclosure statement in accordance with this section is required to include only
19 contributions received or expenditures made for a nonfederal political purpose related
20 to this state or for the purpose of influencing an initiated petition or the passage or
21 defeat of a measure in this state.

22 12. A political committee that registers according to federal law is not required to file a
23 campaign disclosure statement in accordance with this section for a reporting period in
24 which the political committee maintains a campaign balance and does not receive a
25 contribution or make an expenditure that is reportable under this section.

26 **16.1-08.2-04. Special requirements for state political parties.**

27 1. State political parties shall establish separate and segregated accounts for the
28 management of state nominating conventions. All revenue obtained and expenditures
29 made for the planning and running of a state convention must be accounted for in
30 these accounts.

- 1 2. A postconvention statement must be filed with the secretary of state sixty days after
2 the close of the state nominating convention. The reporting period for the
3 postconvention statement begins on the first day of January of the reporting year and
4 ends thirty days after the close of the state nominating convention.
- 5 3. A year-end statement covering the entire calendar year must be filed with the
6 secretary of state before February first of the following year even if no convention
7 revenue was deposited or expenditures made within the calendar year.
- 8 4. The statement filed under this section must show:
 - 9 a. The balance of the filer's convention accounts at the start and close of the
10 reporting period.
 - 11 b. The total of all revenue deposited and expenditures made of two hundred fifty
12 dollars or less.
 - 13 c. The total of all revenue deposited and expenditures made in excess of two
14 hundred fifty dollars.
 - 15 d. For revenues received and deposited, the:
 - 16 (1) Name of each person providing the revenue;
 - 17 (2) City and state of each person providing revenue;
 - 18 (3) Date of the most recent deposit of revenue from each person providing
19 revenue; and
 - 20 (4) Purpose or purposes for which revenue was deposited from each person.
 - 21 e. For each expenditure made, the:
 - 22 (1) Name of each person to which the expenditure was made;
 - 23 (2) City and state of each person to which the expenditure was made;
 - 24 (3) Date of the most recent expenditure made to each person or entity; and
 - 25 (4) Purpose or purposes for which the aggregated expenditure total was
26 disbursed to each person or entity.
 - 27 f. The total of all contributions and expenditures which total in excess of two
28 hundred fifty dollars during the reporting period.
 - 29 g. The aggregated total of contributions and expenditures which are two hundred
30 fifty dollars or less during the reporting period.

h. For each aggregated revenue from an individual which totals five thousand dollars or more during the reporting period, the occupation, employer, and principal place of business of the individual.

5. Revenues received and expenditures made of two hundred fifty dollars or less in the aggregate filed under this section are exempt records under chapter 44-04 and reported as part of aggregate totals only.

6. If a net gain from the convention is transferred to the accounts established for the support of the nomination or election of candidates, the total transferred must be reported as a contribution in the statements required by section 16.1-08.2-03.

7. If a net loss from the convention is covered by a transfer from the accounts established for the support of the nomination or election of candidates, the total transferred must be reported as an expenditure in the statements required by section 16.1-08.2-03.

8. A state political party or nonprofit entity affiliated with or under the control of a state political party, which receives a donation for purchasing, maintaining, or renovating a building, shall file a statement with the secretary of state before February first of each calendar year. Any income or financial gain generated from a building purchased, maintained, or renovated from donations must be deposited in the building fund and must be disclosed when the political party or nonprofit entity files the statement required under this section. Money in the fund may be used only by the state political party or nonprofit entity affiliated with or under the control of a state political party for purchasing, maintaining, or renovating a building, including the purchase of fixtures for the building. The statement may be submitted for filing beginning on January first and must include the:

a. Balance of the building fund on January first;

b. Name and the city and state of each donor;

c. Amount of each donation;

d. Date each donation was deposited;

e. Name and the city and state of each recipient of an expenditure;

f. Amount of each expenditure;

g. Date each expenditure was made; and

h. Balance of the fund on December thirty-first.

16.1-08.2-05. Special requirements for statements required of persons engaged in activities regarding ballot measures.

1. For each reportable contribution and expenditure under section 16.1-08.2-03, the threshold for reporting is one hundred dollars for any person engaged in activities described in subdivision e of subsection 13 of section 16.1-08.2-01.
2. For contributions deposited from any contributor, a person engaged in activities described in subdivision e of subsection 13 of section 16.1-08.2-01 shall include the following information regarding each subcontributor that has stated a contribution is for the express purpose of furthering the passage or defeat of a ballot measure in the statements required under section 16.1-08.2-03:
 - a. A designation as to whether any person contributed in excess of one hundred dollars of the total contribution;
 - b. The name and the city and state of each subcontributor contributing in excess of one hundred dollars of the total contribution;
 - c. The contribution amounts of each disclosed subcontributor; and
 - d. The occupation, employer, and address for the employer's principal place of business of each disclosed subcontributor.
3. A measure committee which is seeking approval for an initiative or referendum shall file a disclosure statement by the date the secretary of state approves the petition for circulation. Thereafter, the measure committee is required to file disclosure statements as directed by section 16.1-08.2-03.
4. Contributions and expenditures of one hundred dollars or less in the aggregate filed in a disclosure statement as directed by section 16.1-08.2-03 are exempt records under chapter 44-04 and reported as part of aggregate totals only.
5. A measure committee that is seeking approval for an initiative or referendum shall file a statement regarding its intent to compensate circulators before paying for petitions to be circulated.

16.1-08.2-06. Special requirements for political committees organized and registered under federal law.

1. A political committee organizing and registering according to federal law which makes an independent expenditure or makes a disbursement in excess of two hundred fifty dollars to a nonfederal candidate seeking public office or to a political party or political committee in this state shall file a copy of that portion of the committee's federal report detailing the independent expenditure or the disbursement made.
2. The political committee shall file a copy of the committee's federal report, and supplementary information as necessary under this section, with the secretary of state at the time of filing the report with the applicable federal agency. The report and supplementary information must include the:
 - a. Name, city and state, and treasurer of the political committee;
 - b. Recipient's name and mailing address;
 - c. Date and amount of the independent expenditure or disbursement; and
 - d. Ultimate and true source of funds listed by contributor and subcontributor for any amount over two hundred fifty dollars collected or used to make the independent expenditure or disbursement including the:
 - (1) Name, city and state, and treasurer of the political committee;
 - (2) Total amount of the contribution; and
 - (3) Date the last contribution was deposited.

16.1-08.2-07. Campaign contributions by corporations, cooperative corporations, limited liability companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, and associations - Penalty.

1. A corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association may establish, administer, and solicit contributions to a separate and segregated fund to be used for political purposes by the corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association. It is unlawful for:
 - a. The person controlling the fund to make contributions or expenditures using money or anything of value secured by physical force, job discrimination, financial reprisals, or the threat of those actions, or use money from dues, fees, treasury funds, or other money required as a condition of membership in an

1 association, or as a condition of employment, or use money obtained in any
2 commercial transaction. Moneys from fees, dues, treasury funds, or money
3 obtained in a commercial transaction may, however, be used to pay costs of
4 administration of the fund.

5 b. Any person soliciting an employee, stockholder, patron, board member, or
6 member for a contribution to the fund to fail to inform the employee or member of
7 the political purposes of the fund at the time of the solicitation or of the general
8 political philosophy intended to be advanced through committee activities.

9 c. Any person soliciting an employee or member for a contribution to the fund to fail
10 to inform the employee or member at the time of the solicitation of the right to
11 refuse to contribute without any reprisal.

12 d. Any contribution to be accepted without keeping an accurate record of the
13 contributor and amount contributed and of amounts expended for political
14 purposes.

15 e. Any contribution to be accepted from any person not an employee, a stockholder,
16 a patron, a board member or a member of the corporation, cooperative
17 corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association
18 maintaining the political action committee, except a corporation may accept a
19 contribution from an employee, a stockholder, a patron, a board member, or a
20 member of an affiliate or a subsidiary of the corporation.

21 f. Any expenditure made for political purposes to be reported under this section
22 before control of the expenditure has been released by the political action
23 committee except if there is a contract, a promise, or an agreement, expressed or
24 implied, to make the expenditure.

25 2. A person may not make a payment of that person's money or of another person's
26 money to any other person for a political purpose in any name other than that of the
27 person supplying the money and a person may not knowingly receive the payment nor
28 enter nor cause the payment to be entered in that person's account or record in any
29 name other than that of the person by which it actually was furnished.

30 3. If an officer, employee, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation,
31 cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association

1 makes any contribution prohibited by this section out of corporate, cooperative
2 corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association funds or
3 otherwise violates this section, it is prima facie evidence of a violation by the
4 corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or
5 association.

6 4. Corporations, cooperative corporations, limited liability companies, affiliates,
7 subsidiaries, and associations may make expenditures and contributions for promoting
8 any general political philosophy or belief deemed in the best interest of the employees,
9 stockholders, patrons, or members of the corporation, cooperative corporation, limited
10 liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association other than a "political purpose" as
11 defined by this chapter. A corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability
12 company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association may not make a contribution for a political
13 purpose.

14 5. A corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or
15 association may make a donation of property or money to a state political party or
16 nonprofit entity affiliated with or under the control of a state political party for deposit in
17 a separate and segregated building fund.

18 6. A corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or
19 association may make an expenditure to a measure committee for the purpose of
20 promoting the passage or defeat of an initiated or referred measure or petition or make
21 an expenditure to any other person making an independent expenditure. A
22 corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or
23 association may make an independent expenditure for a political purpose, including
24 political advertising in support of or opposition to a candidate, political committee, or a
25 political party, or for the purpose of promoting passage or defeat of initiated or referred
26 measures or petitions. The corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability
27 company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association shall file a statement disclosing any
28 expenditure made under this subsection with the secretary of state within forty-eight
29 hours after making the expenditure. The statement must include:

30 a. The full name of the corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability
31 company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association;

- b. The complete address of the corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association;
- c. The name of the recipient of the expenditure;
- d. If the expenditure is related to a measure or petition, the title of the measure or petition and whether the expenditure is made in support of or opposition to the measure or petition;
- e. If the expenditure is related to a measure, the election date on which the measure either will appear or did appear on the ballot;
- f. The amount of the expenditure;
- g. The cumulative total amount of expenditures since the beginning of the calendar year which are required to be reported under this subsection;
- h. The telephone number and the printed name and signature of the individual completing the statement, attesting to the statement being true, complete, and correct; and
- i. The date on which the statement was signed.

7. A violation of this section may be prosecuted in the county where the contribution is made or in any county in which it has been paid or distributed.

8. It is a class A misdemeanor for an officer, director, stockholder, manager, governor, member, attorney, agent, or representative of any corporation, cooperative corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association to violate this section or to counsel or consent to any violation. Any person that solicits or knowingly receives any contribution in violation of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

9. Any officer, director, stockholder, manager, governor, member, attorney, agent, or representative who makes, counsels, or consents to the making of a contribution in violation of this section is liable to the company, corporation, limited liability company, affiliate, subsidiary, or association for the amount so contributed.

16.1-08.2-08. Special requirements for conduits.

A conduit transferring any contribution to a candidate, political party, or political committee shall provide the recipient of the contribution a detailed statement listing the name and address of each individual contributor, the amount of each contribution, and the date each contribution was deposited. The conduit also shall include on the statement the occupation, employer, and

1 principal place of business of each contributor, or the political committee if not already
2 registered according to state or federal law, which contributed five thousand dollars or more in
3 the aggregate during a reporting period applicable to the candidate, political party, or political
4 committee. The conduit shall provide the statement to the candidate, political party, or political
5 committee in a manner to allow the candidate, political party, or political committee to file any
6 statement required to be filed under this chapter.

7 **16.1-08.2-09. General prohibitions.**

- 8 1. A foreign national may not make or offer to make, directly or indirectly, a contribution
9 or expenditure in connection with any election.
- 10 2. A candidate, candidate committee, political committee, political party, or any other
11 person may not solicit, accept, or receive, directly or indirectly, a contribution from a
12 foreign national.
- 13 3. A candidate may not use any contribution deposited by the candidate, the candidate's
14 candidate committee, or a multicandidate political committee to:
 - 15 a. Give a personal benefit to the candidate or another person;
 - 16 b. Make a loan to another person;
 - 17 c. Knowingly pay more than the fair market value for goods or services purchased
18 for the campaign; or
 - 19 d. Pay a criminal fine or civil penalty.
- 20 4. If the secretary of state has substantial reason to believe any person knowingly
21 violated this section, the secretary shall arrange for an audit as authorized by section
22 16.1-08.2-10.
- 23 5. A person may not be excused from attending and testifying or producing any books,
24 papers, or other documents before any court upon any investigation, proceeding, or
25 trial for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, upon the grounds that the
26 testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of the person may tend to
27 incriminate or degrade the person. A person may not be prosecuted or subjected to
28 any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing
29 concerning which the person may testify or produce evidence, documentary or
30 otherwise. Any testimony given or produced may not be used against the person in
31 any criminal investigation or proceeding.

16.1-08.2-10. Audit by secretary of state.

1. If a substantial irregularity is evident or reasonably alleged, the secretary of state may arrange an audit of any statement filed pursuant to this chapter, to be performed by a certified public accountant of the filer's choice, subject to approval by the secretary of state. If an audit of a statement arranged by the secretary of state under this subsection reveals a violation of this chapter, the candidate, political party, political committee, or other person filing the statement shall pay a fine to the secretary of state equal to two hundred percent of the aggregate of contributions and expenditures found to be in violation or an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the audit, whichever is greater. If an audit of a statement arranged by the secretary of state under this subsection does not reveal a violation of this chapter, the cost of the audit must be paid for by the secretary of state.
2. If a substantial irregularity is reasonably alleged, the secretary of state may arrange an audit of any statement filed pursuant to this chapter, performed by a certified public accountant of the filer's choice, subject to approval by the secretary of state, upon written request by any interested party made to the secretary of state within thirty days following receipt of a statement by the secretary of state. The request must be made in writing, recite a substantial irregularity and a lawful reason for requesting an audit, and be accompanied by a bond in an amount established by the secretary of state sufficient to pay the cost of the audit. If an audit of a statement arranged by the secretary of state under this subsection reveals a violation of this chapter, the candidate, political party, or political committee filing the statement shall pay a fine to the secretary of state equal to two hundred percent of the aggregate of contributions and expenditures found to be in violation or an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the audit, whichever is greater, and the bond must be returned to the person submitting it. If an audit of a statement arranged by the secretary of state under this subsection does not reveal a violation of this chapter, the cost of the audit must be satisfied from the bond filed with the secretary of state.
3. An audit may not be made or requested of a statement for the sole reason that it was not timely filed with the secretary of state. An audit made or arranged according to this section must audit only those items required to be included in any statement.

1 registration, or report filed with the secretary of state according to this chapter. The
2 secretary of state may collect any payment obligation arising out of this section by civil
3 action or by assignment to a collection agency, with any costs of collection to be
4 added to the amount owed and to be paid by the delinquent filer. Any remaining
5 moneys collected by the secretary of state after an audit is paid for under this section
6 must be deposited in the state's general fund. This section does not apply to
7 statements filed by candidates or candidate committees for candidates for county, city,
8 or school district offices.

9 **16.1-08.2-11. Filing officer to charge and collect filing fees.**

- 10 1. If a statement or report required to be filed according to this chapter is not filed within
11 the prescribed time, the filing officer to whom the report was to be filed is authorized to
12 charge and collect a late fee as follows:
13 a. Within six days after the prescribed time, fifty dollars;
14 b. Within thirteen days after the prescribed time, one hundred dollars; and
15 c. Thereafter, five hundred dollars.
- 16 2. Any amendment filed by the candidate, candidate committee, multicandidate
17 committee, political committee, or political party, or at the request of the filing officer,
18 the filing officer to whom the report was to be filed is authorized to charge and collect a
19 late fee as follows:
20 a. Within six days after the date the amendment was due, fifty dollars;
21 b. Within eleven days after the date the amendment was due, one hundred dollars;
22 and
23 c. Thereafter, five hundred dollars.
- 24 3. Any fines paid under this section must be reported on the statement filed by the
25 candidate, candidate committee, multicandidate committee, political committee, or
26 political party.
- 27 4. The filing officer may collect any payment obligation arising out of this section by civil
28 action or by assignment to a collection agency, with any costs of collection to be
29 added to the amount owed and to be paid by the delinquent filer.

16.1-08.2-12. Secretary of state to provide instruction and adjust thresholds for inflation.

1. The secretary of state shall provide instructions and conduct training for the purpose of promoting uniform application of campaign finance and disclosure requirements and the uniform filing of statements, registrations, or reports according to this chapter.
2. The secretary of state shall adjust for inflation the reporting thresholds in this chapter by one hundred dollars once every ten years from the last calendar year of adjustment and inform persons submitting reports under this chapter of the adjustments. The secretary of state shall make the adjustments beginning January first of each adjustment year beginning January 1, 2026.

16.1-08.2-13. Penalty.

Except as otherwise provided, any person who willfully violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Subdivision b of subsection 2 of section 16.1-10-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

b. "Property" includes:

- (1) Includes motor vehicles, telephones, typewriters, computers, adding machines, postage or postage meters, funds of money, and buildings. However, nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit any candidate, political party, committee, or organization from using any public building for such political meetings as may be required by law, or to prohibit such candidate, party, committee, or organization from hiring the use of any public building for any political purpose if such lease or hiring is otherwise permitted by law.
- (2) Does not include a public building temporarily leased at fair market value to a public or private entity for a political purpose.
- (3) Does not include the private portion of the governor's residence.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-10-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-10-04.1. Certain political advertisements to disclose name of sponsor - Name disclosure requirements.

Every political advertisement by newspaper, pamphlet or folder, display card, sign, poster, or billboard, website, or by any other similar public means, on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, designed to assist, injure, or defeat the candidate by reflecting upon the candidate's personal character or political action, or by a measure committee as described in section ~~16.1-08.1-01~~16.1-08.2-01, or a corporation making an independent expenditure either for or against a measure, must disclose on the advertisement the name of the person, as defined in section ~~16.1-08.1-01~~16.1-08.2-01, or political party paying for the advertisement. If the name of a political party, association, or partnership is used, the disclaimer must also include the name of the chairman or other responsible individual from the political party, association, or partnership. The name of the person paying for any radio or television broadcast containing any advertising announcement for or against any candidate for public office must be announced at the close of the broadcast. If the name of a political party, association, or partnership is used, the disclaimer must also include the name of the chairman or other responsible individual from the political party, association, or partnership. In every political advertisement in which the name of the person paying for the advertisement is disclosed, the first and last name of any named individual must be disclosed. An advertisement paid for by an individual candidate or group of candidates must disclose that the advertisement was paid for by the individual candidate or group of candidates. The first and last name or names of the candidates paying for the advertisement are not required to be disclosed. This section does not apply to campaign buttons.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT. Subdivision f of subsection 8 of section 51-28-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- f. By or on behalf of a political party, candidate, or other group with a political purpose, as defined in section ~~16.1-08.1-01~~16.1-08.2-01, unless the communication is a text message.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Subsection 11 of section 54-66-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11. "Ultimate and true source" means the person that knowingly contributed over two hundred fifty dollars solely to lobby or influence state government action.

1 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-66-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **54-66-02. Disclosure of ultimate and true source of funds.**

- 4 1. A lobbyist who expends an amount greater than two hundred fifty dollars to lobby shall
5 file with the secretary of state a report that includes the known ultimate and true
6 source of funds for the expenditure. The report must be filed with the lobbyist
7 expenditure report required under subsection 2 of section 54-05.1-03.
- 8 2. A person that expends an amount greater than two hundred fifty dollars, not including
9 the individual's own travel expenses and membership dues, to influence state
10 government action shall file with the secretary of state a report including the known
11 ultimate and true source of funds for the expenditure. A report under this subsection
12 must be filed on or before the August first following the date of the expenditure. The
13 secretary of state shall provide a form for reports under this subsection and make the
14 form electronically accessible to the public. The secretary of state also shall charge
15 and collect fees for late filing of the reports as follows:
- 16 a. Twenty-five dollars for a report filed within sixty days after the deadline; or
17 b. Fifty dollars for a report filed more than sixty days after the deadline.
- 18 3. The secretary of state shall compile the reports required under this section and make
19 the reports electronically accessible to the public.
- 20 4. A resident taxpayer may commence an action in a district court of this state against a
21 person required to comply with this section to compel compliance if all other
22 enforcement measures under this chapter have been exhausted and the taxpayer
23 reasonably believes the person has failed to comply with this section.
- 24 5. The secretary of state shall ~~determine adjustments~~adjust for inflation of the reporting
25 thresholds in this section by one hundred dollars once every ten years from the last
26 calendar year of adjustment and instruct persons submitting reports under this section
27 of the adjustments. ~~On~~The secretary of state shall make the adjustment by January
28 first of each adjustment year, ~~the secretary shall determine whether the accumulated~~
29 ~~change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items, United States-~~
30 ~~city average), as applied to each reporting threshold in this section, would result in an~~
31 ~~adjustment of at least ten dollars of the threshold in effect on that date. If so, the~~

1 ~~secretary of state shall deem the reporting threshold adjusted by ten dollars beginning~~
2 January 1, 2026.

3 **SECTION 10. REPEAL.** Chapter 16.1-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

4 **SECTION 11. APPLICATION.** A person required to file a campaign disclosure statement
5 under sections 16.1-08.1-02.1, 16.1-08.1-02.2, 16.1-08.1-02.3, and 16.1-08.1-02.4 disclosing
6 contributions received and expenditures made from January first through December thirty-first
7 of 2025, shall file the statement in accordance with the statutory requirements under chapter
8 16.1-08.1 as it existed prior to its repeal.

9 **SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of this Act become
10 effective on January 1, 2026.