

2021 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1191

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1191
2/5/2021

Relating to reporting expenditures in support of or opposition to candidates; and to provide a penalty

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing at 8:00 a.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

Discussion Topics:

- Transparency in the election process
- Reporting expenditures over \$200

Rep. Devlin introduced and testified in favor, #5633.

Additional written testimony: #5599

Chairman Kasper closed the hearing at 8:10 a.m.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk

Good Morning Chairman Kasper and esteemed members of the House GVA Committee. For the record, I am Rep. Bill Devlin from District 23 and I live in Finley. District 23 is a rural district that encompasses all of Steele, Griggs, Nelson & Eddy counties as well as half of Benson County.

It is my pleasure this morning to present HB1191, which is a bi-partisan bill that has the support of the leaders of both parties in both chambers as well as many other.

This bill is all about transparency in the election process. As I watched the last campaign unfold for statewide and legislative candidates, I was troubled by the expensive advertising campaigns being run for or against various candidate.

I am a firm believer in free speech, but I am also a firm believer in transparency in our elections. Simply put, this bill requires multi-candidate political committees to report expenditures over \$200.00 they have made for or against a candidate in the primary or general elections.

The bill requires the multi-candidate Committee to report those expenditures on a Secretary of State's financial disclosure reports just as you as legislative candidates or statewide candidates must do now. The Citizens of our great state deserve who is funding campaigns in favor of or against a candidate.

I believe this is a step in the right direction and hope you will give this bill your due consideration and support.

Thank you, Chairman Kasper, and members of the committee

Testimony HB 1191
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
February 5, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Don Morrison. I live in Bismarck and I am providing testimony as a volunteer for North Dakota Voters First. We are a non-partisan group of North Dakotans working to strengthen our democracy, help make our elections and public policy more open, ethical, and accountable to the people of our state.

North Dakota Voters First supports HB 1191. We are pleased to see this bipartisan effort to remove secrecy about expenditures related to support or opposition to political candidates. Our democracy and citizen engagement in North Dakota elections works better when citizens know who is trying to influence voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HB 1191. North Dakota Voters First encourages you to give HB 1191 a Do Pass recommendation.

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1191
2/12/2021
Subcommittee

Relating to reporting expenditures in support of or opposition to candidates; and to provide a penalty
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Chairman B. Koppelman opened the subcommittee meeting at 9:52 a.m.

All subcommittee members were present: Rep. B. Koppelman, Chair; Rep. Karls, Rep. Louser, and Rep. Schauer.

Discussion Topics:

- Proposed subcommittee action

Rep. Schauer moved to recommend to the full committee a **Do Not Pass**. **Rep. Karls** seconded. **Voice vote. Motion carries.**

Chairman B. Koppelman ended the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1191
2/12/2021

Relating to reporting expenditures in support of or opposition to candidates; and to provide a penalty

Chairman Kasper opened the committee work meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

Discussion Topics:

- Subcommittee report.

Rep. B. Koppelman presented recommendations discussed at the subcommittee.

It was decided to hold this over.

Chairman Kasper adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1191
2/18/2021

Relating to reporting expenditures in support of or opposition to candidates; and to provide a penalty

Chairman Kasper opened the committee work meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

Discussion Topics:

- Expenditures reports

Rep. B. Koppelman explained his amendment #6980 21.0606.01001

Rep. Steiner seconded the motion.

Voice vote. Motion carries.

Rep. B. Koppelman moved do pass as amended.

Rep. Schauer seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Pamela Anderson	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y

Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	N

Motion passes. 12-2-0.

Rep. B. Koppelman is the carrier.

Chairman Kasper ended at 5:54 p.m.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk

JB
2/18/21

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1191

Page 2, line 9, after "each" insert "aggregated"

Page 3, line 21, after "each" insert "aggregated"

Page 6, line 18, after the first "the" insert "independent"

Page 6, line 18, after "expenditure" insert "or disbursement"

Page 6, line 18, after the fourth "the" insert "independent"

Page 6, line 19, after "expenditure" insert "or disbursement"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1191: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1191 was placed
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 9, after "each" insert "aggregated"

Page 3, line 21, after "each" insert "aggregated"

Page 6, line 18, after the first "the" insert "independent"

Page 6, line 18, after "expenditure" insert "or disbursement"

Page 6, line 18, after the fourth "the" insert "independent"

Page 6, line 19, after "expenditure" insert "or disbursement"

Renumber accordingly

21.0606.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative B. Koppelman
February 12, 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1191

Page 2, line 9, after "each" insert "aggregated"

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Page 6, line 18, after the first "the" insert "independent"

Page 6, line 18, after "expenditure" insert "or disbursement"

Page 6, line 18, after the fourth "the" insert "independent"

Page 6, line 19, after "expenditure" insert "or disbursement"

Renumber accordingly

2021 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1191

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1191
3/18/2021

A BILL relating to reporting expenditures in support of or opposition to candidates; and to provide a penalty.

Chair Vedaa opened the hearing at 11:00 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Eklin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

Discussion Topics:

- Bi-partisan bill
- Transparency
- Multi-candidate committee
- Caucus not need to fill report

Rep Devlin – Dist 23 – introduced the bill #10043

Jim Silrum – ND Deputy Sec of State testified neutral #10044

Additional written testimony: None

Adjourned at 11:15 AM

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

Good Morning Chairman Vedaa and esteemed members of the Senate GVA Committee. For the record, I am Rep. Bill Devlin from District 23 and I live in Finley. District 23 is a rural district that encompasses all of Steele, Griggs, Nelson & Eddy counties as well as half of Benson County.

It is my pleasure this morning to present HB1191, which is a bi-partisan bill that has the support of the leaders of both parties in both chambers as well as many other.

This bill is all about transparency in the election process. As I watched the last campaign unfold for statewide and legislative candidates, I was troubled by the expensive advertising campaigns being run for or against various candidates.

I am a firm believer in free speech, but I am also a firm believer in transparency in our elections. Simply put, this bill requires multi-candidate political committees to report expenditures over \$200.00, in the aggregate, they have made for or against a candidate in the primary or general elections.

The bill requires the multi-candidate Committee to report those expenditures on a Secretary of State's financial disclosure reports just as you as legislative candidates or statewide candidates must do now. The Citizens of our great state deserve who is funding campaigns in favor of or against a candidate.

I believe this is a step in the right direction and hope you will give this bill your due consideration and support.

Thank you, Chairman Vedaa, and members of the committee

ALVIN A. JAEGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

HOME PAGE www.nd.gov/sos



PHONE (701) 328-2900
FAX (701) 328-2992

E-MAIL sos@nd.gov

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

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.



SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

(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

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1191
4/1/2021

Relating to reporting expenditures in support of or opposition to candidates; provide a penalty.

Chair Vedaa called to order at 9:46 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Work

Sen K Roers moved a **Do Not Pass**

Sen Elkin seconded

Roll Call Vote: 6 -- YES 1 -- NO -0-ab Motion Passed

Senators	Vote
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jay R. Elkin	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	N
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Mark F. Webber	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

Sen K Roers will carry the bill

Adjourned at 9:50 AM

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1191, as engrossed: **Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Vedaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1191 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.