

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1583**

Introduced by

Representatives Kasper, Henderson, Koppelman, Louser, S. Olson, Steiner

Senators Magrum, Paulson, Weston

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 16.1-10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to false political advertisements; and to provide a penalty.

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

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **16.1-10-04. Publication of false information in political advertisements - Penalty.**

7 1. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if ~~that~~the person knowingly, or with  
8 reckless disregard for its truth or falsity, publishes ~~any~~a political advertisement or news  
9 release ~~that contains any~~containing an assertion, representation, or statement of fact,  
10 including information concerning a candidate's prior public record, which is untrue,  
11 deceptive, or misleading, ~~whether~~ on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for  
12 public office, initiated measure, referred measure, constitutional amendment, or any  
13 other issue, question, or proposal on an election ballot, ~~and whether the~~  
14 ~~publication~~which is published by radio, television, newspaper, text message, telephone  
15 call, pamphlet, folder, display cards, signs, posters, billboard advertisements,  
16 websites, electronic transmission, social media, or by any other public means or  
17 commercial medium.

18 2. This section does not apply to a newspaper, television or radio station, or other  
19 commercial medium that is not the source of the political advertisement or news  
20 release.

21 3. A candidate who is the subject of an untrue, deceptive, or misleading advertisement  
22 under this section may commence a civil action to recover civil damages. A candidate

1           who successfully recovers civil damages under this section may be awarded the full  
2           amount of all costs and attorney's fees incurred by the candidate during the pendency  
3           of the civil proceedings.