

FILED FEB 17 1997

SENATE FILE 144  
BY KIBBIE

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to publication of false or misleading information  
2 in political advertisements and applying a penalty.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF. 144

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 56.14A FALSE INFORMATION IN  
2 POLITICAL MATERIAL.

3 1. A person shall not be a sponsor of any published  
4 material on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or  
5 ballot issue that contains any assertion, representation, or  
6 statement of fact, including, but not limited to, information  
7 concerning a candidate's prior public record, which the  
8 sponsor knows to be untrue, deceptive, or misleading.

9 2. For purposes of this section, "published material"  
10 means statements or graphic representations made through any  
11 public medium which includes, but is not limited to, any of  
12 the following:

13 a. Electronic media such as live or prerecorded radio or  
14 television broadcasts, broadcasts or transmissions through  
15 other publicly available electronic communications, and video  
16 or audio tape recordings which are publicly distributed.

17 b. Print media, such as newspapers, pamphlets, folders,  
18 display cards, signs, posters, or billboard advertisements.

19 c. Any other methods or mediums designed for publicly  
20 advertising or publishing information.

21 3. For purposes of this section, "sponsor" means a person  
22 who pays for or approves published material and shall include  
23 a candidate or committee which knows and approves of an  
24 independent expenditure made by another person under section  
25 56.13.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill adds a new provision to the campaign finance  
28 chapter, chapter 56 of the Code, which prohibits the  
29 sponsoring of published material, on behalf of or in  
30 opposition to any candidate or ballot issue, which contains  
31 information that the sponsor knows to be untrue, deceptive, or  
32 misleading. "Published material" is defined to include public  
33 statements or graphic representations made through various  
34 forms of print, electronic, or other mediums. A person who  
35 willfully violates any of the requirements or prohibitions

1 contained in chapter 56 is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

2 A conviction of a serious misdemeanor carries a penalty of  
3 a fine of at least \$250 but not to exceed \$1,500 and may also  
4 include imprisonment of not more than one year.

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