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SENATE FILE 219
BY KIBBIE, CONNOLLY, HORN,
SOUKUP, BLACK, HOLVECK,
DVORSKY, HAMMOND, FIEGEN,
HARPER, DEARDEN, FRAISE,
HANSEN, SHEARER, BOLKCOM,
FINK, McCOY, FLYNN, and
GRONSTAL

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting the publication of false or misleading
2 information in political advertisements, and applying a
3 penalty.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 219
STATE GOVERNMENT

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 creates new Code section 56.14A to prohibit
28 published material, on behalf of or in opposition to any
29 candidate or ballot issue, that contains information that the
30 sponsor knows to be untrue, deceptive, or misleading.

31 "Published material" is defined to include public statements
32 or graphic representations made through various forms of
33 print, electronic, or other mediums. A person who willfully
34 violates any of the requirements or prohibitions contained in
35 Code chapter 56 is guilty of a serious misdemeanor pursuant to

1 Code section 56.16, subject to a penalty of a fine of at least
2 \$250 but not to exceed \$1,500, and may also include
3 imprisonment of not more than one year.

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