

# House File 584 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY D. OLSON

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

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a clean campaign pledge program and establishing  
2 a penalty.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 2358HH 83  
5 jr/sc/5

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.407 CLEAN CAMPAIGN PLEDGE  
1 2 PROGRAM == PENALTIES.  
1 3 1. The general assembly finds that political campaigns  
1 4 increasingly disparage or denigrate an opposing candidate for  
1 5 public office by making personal attacks and making  
1 6 inflammatory or misleading statements. The general assembly  
1 7 further finds that such campaign tactics impede a full and  
1 8 fair discussion of campaign issues and diminish the trust and  
1 9 confidence of the public in the electoral process.  
1 10 2. A clean campaign pledge program is created under the  
1 11 administration of the board. The board shall allow a  
1 12 candidate for public office to participate in the program by  
1 13 electronically signing the clean campaign pledge on the  
1 14 board's internet website. The website shall also contain a  
1 15 database, available to the public, of current candidates for  
1 16 public office who have signed the pledge.  
1 17 a. The clean campaign pledge shall be displayed on the  
1 18 website and shall provide:  
1 19 "I pledge to abide by an exemplary standard of conduct.  
1 20 During this campaign, I pledge to confine any criticism of my  
1 21 opponent to campaign issues and matters of public record and  
1 22 to avoid personal attacks. I pledge to refrain from using  
1 23 inciting or inflammatory language and from making misleading  
1 24 statements. I further pledge to promptly disavow any  
1 25 independent expenditure made on my behalf which violates the  
1 26 standards established in this pledge."  
1 27 b. When signed by the candidate the pledge is binding on  
1 28 both the candidate and the candidate's committee through the  
1 29 current election period or until specifically withdrawn by the  
1 30 candidate.  
1 31 c. The board shall develop a clean-campaign-pledge  
1 32 logogram which shall be available for use by a participating  
1 33 candidate in the candidate's campaign.  
1 34 3. a. A candidate for public office who alleges conduct  
1 35 in violation of a pledge made pursuant to this section may  
2 1 file a complaint with the board. The board shall give  
2 2 priority consideration to a complaint filed under this section  
2 3 over all other matters pending before the board.  
2 4 b. If the board determines that a violation of a pledge  
2 5 made pursuant to this section did occur, the board shall  
2 6 remove the candidate from the program, prohibit the candidate  
2 7 from any further use of the program logogram, and publicly  
2 8 reprimand the candidate for violation of a pledge made  
2 9 pursuant to this section. Other remedies set out in section  
2 10 68B.32D or section 68A.701 do not apply to such violations.  
2 11 4. The board shall adopt rules as necessary to administer  
2 12 the clean campaign pledge program.

### EXPLANATION

2 14 This bill creates new Code section 68A.407 that establishes  
2 15 a clean campaign pledge program under the administration of  
2 16 the ethics and campaign disclosure board. Participating  
2 17 candidates would sign a pledge promising to avoid personal  
2 18 attacks and to avoid using inciting or inflammatory language  
2 19 or making misleading statements.  
2 20 A candidate may file a complaint alleging a pledge

2 21 violation with the ethics and campaign disclosure board. If  
2 22 the board determines that a violation of a pledge did occur,  
2 23 the board shall remove the candidate from the program,  
2 24 prohibit the candidate from any further use of the program  
2 25 logogram, and publicly reprimand the candidate for the  
2 26 violations. No other penalties may be applied.  
2 27 LSB 2358HH 83  
2 28 jr/sc/5