HOUSE FILE 2150

BY WICHTENDAHL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of artificial intelligence for

2 purposes associated with elections, ballot issues, and

3 public officials, providing penalties, and making penalties

4 applicable.

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

1 Section 1. Section 68A.405, Code 2026, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:
3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. *a.* Published material generated through
4 the use of artificial intelligence and designed to expressly
5 advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate for
6 public office or the passage or defeat of a ballot issue must
7 contain a disclosure on the published material that the published
8 material was generated using artificial intelligence. The
9 disclosure must include the words "this material was generated
10 using artificial intelligence".
11 *b.* For purposes of this subsection, *"artificial intelligence"*
12 means a machine-based system that can, for a given set of
13 human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or
14 decisions influencing real or virtual environments.
15 *c.* The board shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.
16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **68A.507 Endorsements —— generation by**
17 **artificial intelligence prohibited.**
18 A person shall not publish published material, as defined in
19 section 68A.405, that includes an endorsement of a candidate or
20 ballot measure by a representation of a person that has been
21 generated using artificial intelligence, as defined in section
22 68A.405.
23 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **68B.40 Artificial intelligence**
24 **limitations.**
25 1. For the purposes of this section:
26 *a.* *"Artificial intelligence"* means the same as defined in
27 section 68A.405.
28 *b.* *"Political committee"* means the same as defined in section
29 68A.102.
30 *c.* *"State statutory political committee"* means the same as
31 defined in section 68A.102.
32 2. A candidate, candidate's committee, political committee,
33 public official, or state statutory political committee shall
34 not use artificial intelligence to depict a candidate or public
35 official engaging in behavior that the candidate or public

1 official would be unlikely to engage in or that would likely
2 diminish the public perception of the candidate or public
3 official.
4   3. A candidate, that candidate's committee, or a public
5 official shall not use artificial intelligence to depict the
6 candidate or public official in an event or situation that did
7 not occur.
8   4. A public official shall not use artificial intelligence
9 to manipulate depictions of events of statewide or national
10 importance that a reasonable person would conclude was intended
11 to influence public opinion about a defined group or influence
12 the outcome of an election or the passage or defeat of
13 legislation.
14   5. A candidate, candidate's committee, political committee,
15 public official, or state statutory political committee shall
16 not knowingly share material generated by a third party using
17 artificial intelligence. A candidate, candidate's committee,
18 political committee, public official, or state statutory
19 political committee does not violate this subsection if the
20 candidate, candidate's committee, political committee, public
21 official, or state statutory political committee makes a
22 good-faith effort to remove material that the candidate,
23 candidate's committee, political committee, public official, or
24 state statutory political committee discovers was generated using
25 artificial intelligence and informs the public that the material
26 was generated using artificial intelligence.
27   6. *a.* The board may impose a fine of up to five thousand
28 dollars on a candidate or public official for a first violation
29 of this section and a fine of up to one and one-half times the
30 previous fine for each subsequent violation of this section.
31   *b.* The board may impose a fine of up to fifty thousand
32 dollars on a candidate's committee, political committee, or state
33 statutory political committee for a first violation of this
34 section and a fine of up to two times the previous fine for each
35 subsequent violation of this section.

1   *c.* A fine collected by the board pursuant to this subsection
2 shall be deposited in the general fund of the state.
3   EXPLANATION
4   The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
6   This bill relates to the use of artificial intelligence for
7 purposes associated with elections, ballot issues, and public
8 officials. The bill amends Code chapter 68A (campaign finance)
9 to require published material generated through the use of
10 artificial intelligence, defined in the bill as a machine-based
11 system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives,
12 make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real
13 or virtual environments, that is designed to expressly advocate
14 for or against a candidate or ballot issue to include a
15 disclosure that the published material was generated using
16 artificial intelligence. The bill prohibits published material
17 from including an endorsement of a candidate or ballot measure
18 by a representation of a person that has been generated using
19 artificial intelligence. By operation of law, a person who
20 willfully violates Code chapter 68A is guilty of a serious
21 misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement
22 for no more than one year and a fine of at least $430 but not
23 more than $2,560.
24   The bill enacts new Code section 68B.40 (artificial
25 intelligence limitations) to prohibit a candidate, candidate's
26 committee, political committee, public official, or state
27 statutory political committee from using artificial intelligence
28 to depict a candidate or public official engaging in behavior
29 that the candidate or public official would be unlikely to
30 engage in or that would likely diminish the public perception
31 of the candidate or public official. The bill also prohibits
32 a candidate, that candidate's committee, or a public official
33 from using artificial intelligence to depict the candidate or
34 public official in an event or situation that did not occur and
35 from sharing material generated by a third party using artificial

1 intelligence. A person does not violate the prohibition on
2 sharing material generated by a third party using artificial
3 intelligence if the person makes a good-faith effort to remove
4 material that the person discovers was generated by artificial
5 intelligence and informs the public that the material was
6 generated using artificial intelligence.
7 The bill prohibits a public official from using artificial
8 intelligence to manipulate depictions of events of statewide or
9 national importance to influence public opinion about a defined
10 group or influence the outcome of an election or the passage or
11 defeat of legislation.
12 The Iowa ethics and campaign disclosure board (board) may
13 impose a fine of up to $5,000 on a candidate or public official
14 for a first violation of new Code section 68B.40 and a fine of up
15 to one and one-half times the previous fine for each subsequent
16 violation. The board may impose a fine of up to $50,000 on a
17 candidate's committee, political committee, or state statutory
18 political committee for a first violation of new Code section
19 68B.40 and a fine of up to two times the previous fine for
20 each violation. A fine collected by the board pursuant to this
21 provision of the bill shall be deposited in the general fund of
22 the state.