

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 995

(SENATE AUTHORS: NEWMAN)

DATE
02/15/2021

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Introduction and first reading
 Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

OFFICIAL STATUS

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to elections; prohibiting use of public funds to promote or defeat a ballot
- 1.3 question; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 5; 10A.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. **[5.385] USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS; BALLOT QUESTIONS.**
- 1.6 Notwithstanding section 10A.52, paragraph (b), the secretary of state shall not spend,
- 1.7 or cause to be spent, any public funds or use any other public resource with the purpose of
- 1.8 promoting or defeating a ballot question at any time. The secretary of state shall not use the
- 1.9 inherent prestige of the office in any manner that has the effect of promoting or defeating
- 1.10 a ballot question. The secretary of state may spend public funds to provide impartial and
- 1.11 balanced information on ballot questions that does not have the effect of promoting or
- 1.12 defeating a ballot question. For purposes of this section, public funds means all general,
- 1.13 special, permanent, trust, and other funds, regardless of source or purpose, held or
- 1.14 administered by a government entity.
- 1.15 Sec. 2. **[10A.52] USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS; BALLOT QUESTIONS.**
- 1.16 (a) No public official shall spend, or cause to be spent, any public funds or use any other
- 1.17 public resource with the purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question or in a manner
- 1.18 that has the effect of promoting or defeating a ballot question.
- 1.19 (b) This prohibition only applies after final enactment of a legislative act that places a
- 1.20 ballot question on the ballot.

- 2.1 (c) For purposes of this section, public funds means all general, special, permanent, trust,
2.2 and other funds, regardless of source or purpose, held or administered by a government
2.3 entity.