



SENATE BILL No. 146

January 17, 1995, Introduced by Senator STEIL
and referred to the Committee on Government
Operations.

A bill to regulate political activity; to regulate legislators; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
2 state senator shall not use state funds to mail 600 or more
3 pieces of substantially similar material during the period begin-
4 ning on the last day named in the Michigan election law, Act No.
5 116 of the Public Acts of 1954, being sections 168.1 to 168.992
6 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, for receiving and filing nominat-
7 ing petitions for the office of state senator and ending on the
8 date of the general November election in which the office of
9 state senator appears on the ballot.

10 (2) A state senator may use state funds to mail 600 or more
11 pieces of substantially similar material during the period

1 prohibited by this section if the mailing directly responds to a
2 petition signed by 600 or more of his or her constituents or to a
3 postcard or similar mail-in campaign to the senator by 600 or
4 more of his or her constituents. The state senator shall limit
5 the mailing during the prohibited period only to the issue or
6 concern raised by his or her constituents in the petition or the
7 postcard or similar mail-in campaign.

8 (3) A state senator who is the chair of a senate committee
9 may use state funds to mail 600 or more pieces of substantially
10 similar material during the period prohibited by this section if
11 the mailing directly relates to the business of the committee.
12 The state senator shall limit the mailing during the prohibited
13 period only to the business of the committee.

14 (4) A state senator may use state funds to mail 600 or more
15 pieces of substantially similar material during the period pro-
16 hibited by this section if the mailing directly responds to an
17 issue of current concern to 600 or more of his or her constitu-
18 ents who have previously contacted the state senator regarding
19 that issue during his or her term of office. The state senator
20 shall limit the mailing during the prohibited period only to the
21 issue of current concern to his or her constituents.

22 (5) A state senator may use state funds to mail 600 or more
23 nonpartisan ballot guides or nonpartisan budget reports, or both,
24 prepared pursuant to section 3.

25 (6) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misde-
26 meanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

1 Sec. 2. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
2 state representative shall not use state funds to mail 200 or
3 more pieces of substantially similar material during the period
4 beginning on the last day named in the Michigan election law, Act
5 No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1954, for receiving and filing nom-
6 inating petitions for the office of state representative and
7 ending on the date of the general November election in which the
8 office of state representative appears on the ballot.

9 (2) A state representative may use state funds to mail 200
10 or more pieces of substantially similar material during the
11 period prohibited by this section if the mailing directly
12 responds to a petition signed by 200 or more of his or her con-
13 stituents or to a postcard or similar mail-in campaign to the
14 representative by 200 or more of his or her constituents. The
15 state representative shall limit the mailing during the prohib-
16 ited period only to the issue or concern raised by his or her
17 constituents in the petition or the postcard or similar mail-in
18 campaign.

19 (3) A state representative who is the chair of a house com-
20 mittee may use state funds to mail 200 or more pieces of substan-
21 tially similar material during the period prohibited by this sec-
22 tion if the mailing directly relates to the business of the
23 committee. The state representative shall limit the mailing
24 during the prohibited period only to the business of the
25 committee.

26 (4) A state representative may use state funds to mail 200
27 or more pieces of substantially similar material during the

1 period prohibited by this section if the mailing directly
2 responds to an issue of current concern to 200 or more of his or
3 her constituents who have previously contacted the state repre-
4 sentative regarding that issue during his or her term of office.
5 The state representative shall limit the mailing during the pro-
6 hibited period only to the issue of current concern to his or her
7 constituents.

8 (5) A state representative may use state funds to mail 200
9 or more nonpartisan ballot guides or nonpartisan budget reports,
10 or both, prepared pursuant to this section.

11 (6) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misde-
12 meanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

13 Sec. 3. (1) The director of the legislative service bureau
14 shall prepare a nonpartisan ballot guide and a nonpartisan budget
15 report for use by a state senator under section 1(5) or a state
16 representative under section 2(5). Upon request of a state sena-
17 tor or a state representative, the legislative service bureau
18 shall print the number of nonpartisan ballot guides or nonparti-
19 san budget reports, or both, requested by the state senator or
20 state representative with the state senator's or state
21 representative's name printed on the return address portion of
22 the guide or report, which name shall not be printed in type
23 larger than 10 points. The legislative service bureau shall not
24 place a photograph or any other likeness of the state senator or
25 state representative or print his or her name on any other part
26 of the nonpartisan ballot guide or the nonpartisan budget
27 report.

1 (2) As used in this section, "legislative service bureau"
2 means the legislative service bureau created by section 105 of
3 the legislative council act, Act No. 268 of the Public Acts of
4 1986, being section 4.1105 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.