

Legislative Analysis



DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN TELEPHONE CALL FUNDING

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4196 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Pamela Hornberger
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 6-14-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4196 would add a section to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act to require that an automated phone call relating to an election, candidate, or ballot question state clearly the name of the party paying for the call, as well as the following disclaimers, as appropriate, at the beginning of the call:

If the call related to a candidate and was an ***independent expenditure*** not authorized in writing by the candidate's candidate committee, the call would have to state clearly that it was "not authorized by any candidate committee."

If the call related to a candidate and was not an ***independent expenditure***, but was paid for by a person other than the candidate, the call would have to state clearly that it was "authorized by [name of candidate or candidate committee]."

A person who knowingly violated this section would be subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation.

An ***independent expenditure*** is defined elsewhere in the act as an expenditure by a person that is not made at the direction of, or under the control of, another person and that is not a contribution to a committee.

Proposed MCL 169.248

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state government or local units of government.

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney
Fiscal Analyst: Michael Cnossen

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.