

LEGISLATIVE BILL 986

Approved by the Governor April 14, 2026

Introduced by Bostar, 29; Andersen, 49; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Brandt, 32; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hallstrom, 1; Hansen, 16; Holdcroft, 36; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Kauth, 31; McKinney, 11; Prokop, 27; Sanders, 45; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to campaign expenditures; to amend sections 49-1446.02 and 49-1446.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide for expenditures for security services and systems; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 49-1446.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

49-1446.02 Notwithstanding any other provision of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, no committee shall expend funds for the purchase or payment of:

(1) Clothes or medical or dental expenses of a candidate or the members of his or her immediate family;

(2) Installment payments for an automobile owned by a candidate;

(3) Mortgage or rental payments for a permanent residence of a candidate;

(4) The satisfaction of personal debts, including installment payments on personal loans, except campaign loans subject to reporting required by subsection (2) of section 49-1456;

(5) Personal services, including the services of a lawyer or accountant, except campaign services subject to reporting pursuant to the provisions of section 49-1455 and security services as described in subdivision (10) of section 49-1446.03; or

(6) Office supplies, staff, or furnishings for the public office for which an individual is a candidate for nomination or election except as set out in subsection (2) of section 49-1446.01 and subdivision (10) of section 49-1446.03.

Sec. 2. Section 49-1446.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

49-1446.03 Except as otherwise provided in the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, any committee may, in addition to the expenditures set forth in section 49-1446.01, make expenditures for the following:

(1) The necessary continued operation of the campaign office or offices of the candidate or political committee;

(2) Social events primarily for the benefit of campaign workers and volunteers or constituents;

(3) Obtaining public input and opinion;

(4) Repayment of campaign loans incurred prior to election day;

(5) Newsletters and other communications for the purpose of information, thanks, acknowledgment, or greetings or for the purpose of political organization and planning;

(6) Gifts of acknowledgment, including flowers and charitable contributions, except that gifts to any one individual shall not exceed fifty dollars in any one calendar year;

(7) Meals, lodging, and travel by an officeholder related to his or her candidacy and for members of the immediate family of the officeholder when involved in activities related to his or her candidacy;

(8) Conference fees, meals, lodging, and travel by an officeholder and his or her staff when involved in activities related to the duties of his or her public office; and

(9) In the case of the candidate committee for the Governor, conference fees, meals, lodging, and travel by the Governor, his or her staff, and his or her immediate family, when involved in activities related to the duties of the Governor; and -

(10) Security services and systems, including security personnel, hardware, software, electronic security equipment, installation, maintenance, monitoring and other reasonable physical and structural security measures and improvements.

Sec. 3. Original sections 49-1446.02 and 49-1446.03, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.