

LEGISLATIVE BILL 722

Approved by the Governor February 28, 1992

Introduced by Schimek, 27; Conway, 17

AN ACT relating to telecommunications; to amend sections 49-1446.01, 49-1446.02, and 81-1120.27, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943; to authorize the expenditure and transfer of funds for telephone and telefax machines for officeholders; to authorize the use of the state's telecommunications systems for essential personal business; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 49-1446.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

49-1446.01. No committee, other than a political party committee, may expend or transfer funds except to make an expenditure, as defined in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of section 49-1419, or as provided in this section. Any committee, including a political party committee, may:

(1) Make expenditures or transfer funds after any election for: (a) The necessary continued operation of the campaign office or offices of the candidate or political committee; (b) social events primarily for the benefit of campaign workers and volunteers or constituents; (c) obtaining public input and opinion; (d) repayment of campaign loans incurred prior to election day; (e) newsletters and other communications of information, thanks, acknowledgment, or greetings, or for the purpose of political organization and planning; (f) gifts of acknowledgment, including flowers and charitable contributions, except that gifts to any one natural person shall not exceed fifty dollars in any one calendar year; (g) 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; and (h) 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

(2) Make expenditures or transfer funds for the payment of installation and use of telephone and

telefax machines located in an officeholder's public office and used by such officeholder; and

(3) Invest funds in investments authorized in sections 72-1237 to 72-1269 ~~72-1276~~ for the state investment officer.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a separate segregated political fund from disbursing funds as provided in section 49-1469.

Sec. 2. That section 49-1446.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

49-1446.02. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, no committee shall expend or transfer 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; 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 subdivision (2) of section 49-1446.01.

Sec. 3. That section 81-1120.27, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

81-1120.27. The communications system shall not be used for any purposes other than business of the state or its political subdivisions except under conditions of emergency. The facilities of the state's telecommunications systems are provided for the conduct of state business. In addition, the state's telecommunications systems may be used by state employees and officials for local and long distance calls to children at home, teachers, doctors, day care centers, and baby sitters, to family members to inform them of unexpected schedule changes, and for other essential personal business. The use of the state's telecommunications systems for essential personal

business shall be kept to a minimum and shall not interfere with the conduct of state business. Essential personal long distance calls shall be either collect, charged to a third-party, nonstate number, or charged to a personal credit card.

Sec. 4. That original sections 49-1446.01, 49-1446.02, and 81-1120.27, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, are repealed.