

Comments on Draft Rules:

The first provision of Measure 1 approved by the people of ND in 2018 was to establish

“...laws that require prompt, electronically accessible, plainly comprehensible, public disclosure of the ultimate and true source of funds spent in any medium, in an amount greater than two hundred dollars, adjusted for inflation, to influence any statewide election, election for the legislative assembly, statewide ballot-issue election, or to lobby or otherwise influence state government action. “

I am troubled by 115-03-01-01

Section 3 defines well the activities of lobbying. However, the next section excludes many parties from prosecution whose activities could fall into the definition of lobbying.

An example:

I, as a private citizen or city commissioner, might meet with the Governor’s water policy advisor and tell him/her that his water policies are hurting my community. Could I slip him/her \$500 or a free trip to Hawaii to influence state water policy without fear of penalty? Persuading government is a critical part of a collective society we live in, however, the exchange of personal “gifts” to influence decisions that affect us all is terribly wrong.

115-03-01-02 is problematic as well.

State construction contracts, ag and oil are just a few of the big money interests in the state. Limiting the amount to twice the bribe is ludicrous. Neither the receiver nor giver of the “gift” is likely to be phased by a one thousand dollar fine. Public humiliation, demotion, loss of position, criminal penalties would be more of a deterrent.

The whole goal of the amendment is to stop the influence of money and favors on policy, I think, not to legalize it.

