

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**Findings In The Matter of the Acceptance of  
a Prohibited Contribution During the 2010 Legislative Session  
by the Nick Petersen for State Senate Committee**

**Summary of the Facts**

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a), prohibits a candidate for a legislative office or the candidate's principal campaign committee from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a dissolving principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A candidate that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

The 2010 pre-primary-election Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board by the Nick Petersen for State Senate Committee disclosed a \$150 contribution from the Derek Brigham for State Senate committee on April 7, 2010. The legislative session was held from February 4 through May 17, 2010.

In response to a Board inquiry, Nick Petersen states he that he did not become aware that the contribution was prohibited until the evening prior to the due date of the pre-primary-election Report of Receipts and Expenditures. A contribution that results in a violation may be returned within 60 days of its deposit and the violation is removed. However, by the time Mr. Petersen recognized the violation, more than 60 days had passed. Mr. Petersen states it was not his intent to avoid any campaign finance law.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on November 1, 2010. The Board's decision is based on the correspondence received from Mr. Petersen and Board records.

**Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Finding Concerning Probable Cause**

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Nick Petersen for State Senate Committee accepted a contribution from a dissolving principal campaign committee during the 2010 regular legislative session.
2. There is no probable cause to believe that the acceptance of the subject contribution was intentional or done with the intent to violate Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1.

