



TYLER VORPAGEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB 175: Communications by Persons elected to State and Local Offices
Written Testimony Submitted by State Representative Tyler Vorpapel
Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
May 19, 2015

Thank you, Chair Bernier and members of the Campaigns and Elections Committee for hearing Assembly Bill 175 today. AB 175 creates exceptions for members of the Legislature during a state of emergency. This would apply during the period of time in the biennium between the first day for circulation of nomination papers and the date of the general election, when distributing more than 50 pieces of substantially identical materials is prohibited.

AB 175 allows a legislator to send state-sponsored communications during the 45 day period following the declaration of a state of emergency by the governor affecting any county in their own district if the communication relates solely to the subject of the emergency. An example would be sending out an e-update with information related to County Emergency Management or FEMA contacts, information on resources, or meeting notices.

I have also discussed with colleagues and constituents the concerns around the bill, which has prompted the amendment that will be added to the bill allowing all elected officials, county and state-wide, that are restricted by the 50 piece rule the same courtesy.

The last two sessions AB 175 was passed by the Assembly with bi-partisan support. It is my hope that this session we are able to see this important bill through the entire process. In cases of emergency it will allow our elected officials to continue to do their job by passing along important information and time-sensitive information to their own constituents regardless of the time of year.

Thank you for your time today, I am happy to answer any questions at this time.