

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 459

2026 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

June 1, 2026

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 459 by Representative Mandie Landry, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs (#4156) be rejected.
2. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, delete line 2 and at the beginning of line 3, delete "to" and insert the following:

"To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1463(A), (F), and (G), 1483(7)(a)(iii), (b)(ii), and (c)(ii), (8), (11)(a) and (d)(ii), and 1501.1(A)(1), to enact R.S. 18:1463(H) and (I) and 1483(33), and to repeal R.S. 18:1463(C)(5), 1491.7(B)(22), and 1495.5(B)(21), relative to political campaigns; to provide for"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 5, after "penalties;" delete the remainder of the line and insert the following:

"to provide for campaign finance reporting requirements of persons other than candidates and committees; to provide relative to contributions and expenditures related to electioneering communications; to provide relative to coordinated expenditures; to provide for definitions; to provide for effectiveness; and to"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, delete lines 8 and 9 and insert the following:

"Section 1. R.S. 18:1463(A), (F), and (G), 1483(7)(a)(iii), (b)(ii), and (c)(ii), (8), (11)(a) and (d)(ii), and 1501.1(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:1463(H) and (I) and 1483(33) are hereby enacted to read as follows:"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 2, line 10, after "image" and before "that" delete "or likeness of a candidate" and insert a comma "," and insert "likeness, or voice of a candidate or elected official subject to recall"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, delete lines 14 through 19 and insert the following:

"communication that portrays a candidate or an elected official subject to recall and that is, through the use of artificial intelligence, created, altered, or digitally manipulated in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable observer to be an authentic record of the actual speech or conduct of a candidate or an elected official"

subject to recall and that would falsely appear to replace an individual's likeness with the likeness of a candidate or an elected official subject to recall without providing a clear and understandable disclosure on the electioneering communication that it was created using artificial intelligence. The form of the disclosure shall be consistent with the disclosure requirements of Subsection (E) of this Section."

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 2, delete lines 24 and 25 and at the beginning of line 26, change "(c)" to "(b)"

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 2, delete line 27 and insert the following:

"G.F. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following meanings: term "digital
(1) "Digital material" means any

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 3, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

"(2) "Electioneering communication" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 18:1483."

AMENDMENT NO. 9

On page 3, line 3, after "Section" and before "shall" insert "with the intent to injure the reputation of a candidate or elected official subject to recall or to otherwise deceive a voter"

AMENDMENT NO. 10

On page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

"I. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a media entity that broadcasts a paid political announcement, advertisement, or electioneering communication in which the broadcaster has had no input in or control over the announcement, advertisement, or electioneering communication. As used in this Subsection, the term "media entity" includes the same entities as provided in R.S. 18:1483(33).

* * *

§1483. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings given to each in this Section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *

(7)(a) "Contribution", except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, means a gift, conveyance, payment, or deposit of money or anything of value, or the forgiveness of a loan or of a debt made to any of the following:

* * *

(iii) Any person for the purpose of funding an expenditure ~~to influence the nomination or election of a person to public office~~, whether made before or after the an election.

* * *

(b) "Contribution" shall also include, without limitation:

* * *

(ii) Coordinated expenditures, which made for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of the candidate and shall be considered to be a contribution to such the candidate, the principal campaign committee, or the subsidiary committee thereof that, directly or through an agent, cooperated with, consulted with, or acted in concert with the creator or disseminator

of or requested or suggested the creation or dissemination of the electioneering communication.

* * *

(c) "Contribution" shall not include:

* * *

(ii) Any dues or membership fees of any membership organization or corporation made by its members or stockholders, if such membership organization or corporation is not organized primarily for ~~the purpose of supporting, opposing or otherwise influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to public office~~ making expenditures for electioneering communications. However, any funds of such an organization or corporation used for ~~the purpose of contributions to candidates or committees or to publicly advocate support or defeat of a candidate or for expenditures as defined in this Chapter~~ expenditures for electioneering communications shall be reportable and ~~all contributions made by such membership organization or corporation which are otherwise reportable under the provisions of this Chapter shall be reported.~~

* * *

(8) "Coordinated expenditure" means an expenditure made ~~by any person in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, his principal campaign committee or a subsidiary committee thereof, or their agents for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of the candidate~~ of expenditures for electioneering communications.

* * *

(11)(a) "Expenditure" means a purchase, payment, advance, deposit, or gift, of money or anything of value made ~~for a purpose provided for in R.S. 18:1501.1(A) or 1505.2(f) by a candidate or committee. For a person other than a candidate or committee, "expenditure" means a purchase, payment, advance, deposit, or gift, of money or anything of value made for an electioneering communication.~~

* * *

(d) "Expenditure" shall not include:

* * *

(ii) Any communication, including an electioneering communication, by any membership organization or business entity to its employees, members, directors, or stockholders, or their family members, if such membership organization or business entity is not organized primarily for ~~the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to public office or for the purpose of supporting or opposing a proposition or question to be submitted to the voters~~ making electioneering communications. All other expenditures made by such membership organization or business entity which are otherwise reportable under the provisions of this Chapter shall be reported. For purposes of this definition, business entity means any proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity, including their subsidiaries.

* * *

(33)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any communication, whether printed, digital, or broadcast by a media entity, that meets either of the following:

(i) Contains express advocacy supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a person to public office, the recall of a public official, or a proposition or question submitted to the voters.

(ii) The only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the presentation, content, and context of the communication is that it is intended to appeal for a vote in a specific election for or against a specific candidate or for or against the recall of a specific elected official or a proposition or for or against a question submitted to the voters. Consideration of the context of a communication shall include the temporal proximity to the specific election, whether the communication is primarily directed to voters in the specific election, and whether the communication is part of a larger campaign of communication regarding an issue other than the specific election.

(b) For purposes of this Paragraph, "media entity" includes a radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, cable or satellite television company, or other video service provider, streaming video provider, newspaper company, periodical

company, billboard company, advertisement agency, or media platform responsible for the production or publication of any advertisement, voice, data, or other communications, information services, or internet access provider, or bona fide news or public interest website operator.

* * *

§1501.1. Reports by persons not candidates or committees

A.(1) Any person, other than a candidate or a committee, who makes any expenditure for ~~express advocacy supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a person to public office, the recall of a public official, or a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for a communication for which the only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the presentation and content is that it is intended to appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate or for or against the recall of a specific elected official or a proposition or question submitted to the voters~~ an electioneering communication shall file reports if such expenditures exceed one thousand dollars in the aggregate during the aggregating period as defined for committees.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 18:1463(C)(5), 1491.7(B)(22), and 1495.5(B)(21) are hereby repealed.

Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is authorized and directed to arrange in alphabetical order and renumber definitions contained in R.S. 18:1483 and to correct any cross-references to the renumbered paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions of this Act."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Mandie Landry

Senator Gregory A. Miller

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV

Senator Royce Duplessis

Representative John Wyble

Senator Caleb Seth Kleinpeter

 DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST
HB 459
2026 Regular Session
Mandie Landry
Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Provides relative to the use of artificial intelligence in political campaigns

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Revise the definition of "electioneering communication".
2. Limit campaign finance reporting requirements for reporters other than candidates or committees to apply only to expenditures for electioneering communications and contributions received for such expenditures.
3. Limit campaign finance reporting requirements related to coordinated expenditures to apply only to such expenditures related to electioneering communications.
4. Revise the prohibition against making an electioneering communication using artificial intelligence without including certain disclosures.
5. Limit present law criminal penalties to apply only when a violation is committed with specific intent.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Changed the defined term "digital material" to "digital communication".
2. Limited the reporting requirements of candidates.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Repeal a campaign finance reporting category associated with a provision authorizing expenditure reporting in lieu of including certain disclosures on certain campaign-related statements relative to a candidate.
2. Make technical changes.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee
Disclosures on Electioneering Communications

Present law (R.S. 18:1463) requires that certain electioneering communications and digital materials contain a disclosure of the person paying for the communication.

Proposed law finds that it is essential to the protection of the electoral process that the public not be deceived or misled by an image, likeness, or voice of a candidate or an elected official subject to recall that is created using artificial intelligence, and therefore provides that no person shall make any electioneering communication that portrays a candidate or an elected official subject to recall and that is, through the use of artificial intelligence, created, altered,

or digitally manipulated in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable observer to be an authentic record of the actual speech or conduct of a candidate or an elected official subject to recall and that would falsely appear to replace an individual's likeness with the likeness of a candidate or an elected official subject to recall without providing a clear and understandable disclosure on the electioneering communication that it was created using artificial intelligence.

Proposed law provides that present law and proposed law do not apply to a media entity that broadcasts an electioneering communication in which the broadcaster has had no input in or control over the content of the electioneering communication that was, through the use of artificial intelligence, created, altered, or digitally manipulated in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable observer to be an authentic record of the actual speech or conduct of a candidate or an elected official subject to recall or that would falsely appear to replace an individual's likeness with the likeness of a candidate or an elected official subject to recall.

Present law provides that whoever violates present law or proposed law shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

Proposed law limits present law penalties to apply only when a violation is committed with the intent to injure the reputation of a candidate or elected official subject to recall or to otherwise deceive a voter.

Present law defines "digital material" as any material or communication that, for a fee, is placed or promoted on a public facing website, web application, or digital application, including a social network, advertising network, or search engine.

Proposed law adds to the present law definition materials or communications placed or promoted for any payment other than a fee.

Present law (R.S. 14:73.14) defines "artificial intelligence" as an artificial system developed in computer software, physical hardware, or other context that solves tasks requiring human-like perception, cognition, planning, learning, communication, or physical action.

Proposed law retains present law and applies the same definition to proposed law.

Present law defines "electioneering communication" as any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that refers to a legally qualified candidate for elected office and is broadcast within 60 days before any election in which such candidate is on the ballot.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead provides that "electioneering communication" means any communication, whether printed, broadcast by a media entity, or digital, that contains express advocacy supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a person to public office, the recall of a public official, or a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or the only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the presentation, content, and context of the communication is that the communication is intended to appeal for a vote in a specific election for or against a specific candidate or for or against the recall of a specific elected official or a proposition or for or against a question submitted to the voters.

Present law (R.S. 18:1483(3)) defines "candidate" as a person who seeks nomination or election to public office, except the office of president or vice president of the United States, presidential elector, delegate to a political party convention, United States senator, United States congressman, or political party office. An individual shall be deemed to seek nomination or election to such office if the individual has done any of the following:

- (1) Since prior participation in an election, if any, received and accepted a contribution or made an expenditure, or has given his consent for any other person or committee to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to influencing his nomination or election to office whether or not the specific public office for which he will be a candidate is known at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made.

- (2) Taken the action necessary under the laws of the state of La. to qualify himself for nomination or election to public office.
- (3) Been selected as a party nominee in accordance with present law (R.S. 18:410.6).

Proposed law retains present law and applies the same definition to proposed law.

Present law provides that "media entity" includes a radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, cable or satellite television company, or other video service provider, streaming video provider, newspaper company, periodical company, billboard company, advertisement agency, or media platform responsible for the production or publication of any advertisement, voice, data, or other communications, information services, or internet access provider, or bona fide news or public interest website operator.

Proposed law retains present law.

Campaign Finance Reporting

Present law (Campaign Finance Disclosure Act) defines "contribution" as a gift, conveyance, payment, or deposit of money or anything of value, or the forgiveness of a loan or of a debt made to any person for the purpose of funding *an expenditure to influence the nomination or election of a person to public office*, whether made before or after the election.

Proposed law instead defines "contribution" as a gift, conveyance, payment, or deposit of money or anything of value, or the forgiveness of a loan or of a debt made to any person for the purpose of funding *an expenditure*, whether made before or after the election.

Present law authorizes the use of contributions by a political committee for coordinated expenditures and limits the use of contributions by an independent expenditure only committee as a coordinated expenditure and provides that "coordinated expenditure" means an expenditure made by any person in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, his principal campaign committee or a subsidiary committee thereof, or their agents for *the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of the candidate*.

Proposed law limits the definition of "coordinated expenditure" to apply only to expenditures made by an individual, leadership committee, or political committee and only for expenditures *for electioneering communications*.

Present law provides that "contribution" includes coordinated expenditures made for the purpose of *supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of the candidate* and shall be considered to be a contribution to the candidate.

Proposed law instead provides that "contribution" includes coordinated expenditures, which shall be considered to be a contribution to the candidate, the principal campaign committee, or the subsidiary committee thereof that, directly or through an agent, cooperated with, consulted with, or acted in concert with the creator or disseminator of or requested or suggested the creation or dissemination of an electioneering communication.

Present law provides that "contribution" shall not include any dues or membership fees of any membership organization or corporation made by its members or stockholders, if such membership organization or corporation is not organized primarily for the purpose of *supporting, opposing or otherwise influencing the nomination for election, or election, of any person to public office*.

Proposed law instead provides that "contribution" shall not include the dues or membership fees of such organizations and corporations if the organization or corporation is not organized primarily for the purpose of *making electioneering communications*.

Present law provides that funds of such an organization or corporation used for the purpose of *contributions to candidates or committees or to publicly advocate support or defeat of a*

candidate or for expenditures shall be reportable and all contributions made by such membership organization or corporation which are otherwise reportable shall be reported.

Proposed law instead provides that funds of such an organization or corporation used for *expenditures for electioneering communications* shall be reportable.

Present law provides that "expenditure" means a purchase, payment, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value made for certain enumerated permitted purposes by a candidate or committee, including, among others, the following:

- (1) Supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters.
- (2) Supporting, opposing or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of candidate for election to a public office.
- (3) Supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer.
- (4) Contributions to a gubernatorial transition and inauguration.
- (5) Contributions to an independent expenditure-only committee.
- (6) Donations to an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (7) Lobbying.
- (8) Social and issue advocacy.
- (9) The administrative costs or operating expenses of the committee making the expenditure, including costs and expense related to legal services and costs, accounting services, and fundraising.
- (10) The holding of public office or party position.
- (11) The payment of fines, fees, or penalties.

Proposed law instead provides that "expenditure" means a purchase, payment, advance, deposit, or gift, of money or anything of value made by a candidate or committee, *without limitation on purpose*; or by any person, *for electioneering communications*.

Present law requires the disclosure of "expenditures" made in excess of a certain amount. Proposed law retains present law and applies the proposed law definition of "expenditures" to present law.

Present law requires that "other reporters" who are not candidates or committees, who make any expenditure in excess of \$1,000 for *express advocacy supporting or opposing the nomination or election of a person to public office, the recall of a public official, or a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for a communication for which the only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the presentation and content is that it is intended to appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate or for or against the recall of a specific elected official or a proposition or question submitted to the voters*, file campaign finance reports.

Proposed law instead requires that "other reporters" who make any expenditure in excess of \$1,000 for *an electioneering communication*, only, file campaign finance reports.

Present law (R.S. 18:1491.7(B)(22) and 1495.5(B)(21)) requires that candidates and committees include in each report the total amount of expenditures during the reporting period made in relation to the publication, distribution, transportation, or transmission of statements relative to candidates which do not fully include certain required disclosures.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:1463(A), (F), and (G), 1483(7)(a)(iii), (b)(ii), and (c)(ii), (8), (11)(a) and (d)(ii), and 1501.1(A)(1); Adds R.S. 18:1463(H) and (I) and 1483(33); Repeals R.S. 18:1463(C)(5), 1491.7(B)(22), and 1495.5(B)(21))