
DIGEST

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HB 51 Reengrossed

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Miguez

Abstract: Prohibits use of private funds for election related expenses by a governing authority or agency during a declared emergency.

Present law provides relative to payment of costs related to elections including payment of costs of ballots and election materials, publication of the location of polling places, of renting polling places, of drayage, of setting up voting machines, of compensating commissioners and deputy parish custodians, of transmitting election returns, of other election-related costs incurred by registrars of voters, clerks of court, and the parish board of election supervisors. Present law further specifies that election expenses will be shared on a prorated basis by the state and local governments from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose.

Proposed law provides that, except as otherwise authorized by law, no state or local official or agency responsible for conducting elections shall solicit, accept, use, or dispose of any donation in the form of money, grants, property, or personal services from individuals or profit or nonprofit corporations, for the purpose of funding election related expenses during a declared state of emergency. Proposed law provides that the prohibition does not apply to the solicitation, acceptance, use, or disposal of campaign contributions or in-kind contributions by a candidate for public office for the purpose of meeting expenses related to seeking that office.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 18:1400.10)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Add that the prohibition does not apply to solicitation, use, etc. of campaign contributions or in-kind contributions by a candidate for public office.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Clarify that proposed law applies except as otherwise authorized by law.