

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 153

BY SENATOR BARROW

CAMPAIGN FINANCE. Authorizes the use of campaign funds for certain childcare expenses. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1), relative to campaign funds; to authorize use of

3 campaign funds for certain childcare expenses; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

6 §1505.2. Contributions; expenditures; certain prohibitions and limitations

7 * * *

8 I.(1) On and after January 1, 1991, contributions received by a candidate or

9 a political committee may be expended for any lawful purpose, but such funds shall

10 not be used, loaned, or pledged by any person for any personal use unrelated to a

11 political campaign, the holding of a public office or party position; or, in the case of

12 a political committee, other than a candidate's principal campaign committee or

13 subsidiary committee, the administrative costs or operating expenses of the political

14 committee; except that excess campaign funds may be returned to contributors on

15 a pro rata basis, given as a charitable contribution as provided in 26 U.S.C. §170(c),

16 given to a charitable organization as defined in 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3), expended in

17 support of or in opposition to a proposition, political party, or candidacy of any

1 person, or maintained in a segregated fund for use in future political campaigns or
 2 activity related to preparing for future candidacy to elective office. However, the use
 3 of campaign funds of a candidate or his principal or subsidiary committees to
 4 reimburse a candidate for expenses related to his political campaign or his holding
 5 of a public office or party position shall not be considered personal use by the
 6 candidate. If a candidate is required by state or federal law to pay taxes on the
 7 interest earned by campaign funds of the candidate or any political committee of the
 8 candidate, the candidate may use the interest on which such tax is paid for such
 9 purpose. A payment from campaign funds shall not be considered as having been
 10 spent for personal use when the funds are used to **pay for childcare expenses that**
 11 **exist solely because of a person's participation as a candidate and which would**
 12 **not exist but for the campaign or** replace articles lost, stolen, or damaged in
 13 connection with the campaign.

14 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 153 Engrossed

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Barrow

Present law provides that contributions received by a candidate may be expended for any lawful purpose, but campaign funds shall not be used, loaned, or pledged by any person for any personal use unrelated to a political campaign or the holding of a public office or party position.

Present law further provides that a payment from campaign funds shall not be considered as having been spent for personal use when the funds are used to replace articles, lost, stolen, or damaged in connection with the campaign.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that payment for childcare expenses that exist solely because of a person's participation as a candidate and which would not exist but for the campaign are not considered as having been spent for personal use.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1))