

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 898****2024 Regular Session****Mandie Landry**

ELECTIONS: Provides for disclosure of contributions and expenditures for electioneering communications

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Change the definition of "electioneering communication" from one that to a reasonable person appears to be advocating for the election or defeat of one or more candidates to one that is subject to no other reasonable interpretation than to be advocating for the election or defeat of one or more candidates.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law for purposes of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA) provides that "contribution" includes a gift, conveyance, payment, or deposit of money or anything of value, or the forgiveness of a loan or of a debt, made for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of a person to public office, for the purpose of supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for the purpose of supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer, whether made before or after the election. Present law provides that "expenditure" includes the purchase, payment, advance, deposit, or gift, of money or anything of value made for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of a person to public office, for the purpose of supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for the purpose of supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer, whether made before or after the election.

Proposed law changes the phrase "otherwise influencing the nomination or election of a person to public office" to "providing for an electioneering communication in order to influence the nomination or election of a person to public office" in the above definitions and otherwise retains present law. Proposed law defines "electioneering communication" as the advertisement, transmission, or distribution of any oral, visual, digital, or written material containing any image, audio, video, or identity of a candidate to an audience that includes members of the electorate for the office the candidate seeks made within thirty days before an election for the office the candidate is seeking and that is subject to no other reasonable interpretation than to be advocating for the election or defeat of one or more candidates in the election.

(Amends R.S. 18:1483(6)(a) and (9)(a); Adds R.S. 18:1483(21))