
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 495 Original 2026 Regular Session Kleinpeter

Present law provides for reporting of receipts and expenditures involving campaign finance.

Proposed law requires that visual and oral political announcements or advertisements contain a statement clearly understandable as to its authorization by a political committee or paid for by persons authorized by the candidate and that it appear for not less than four seconds; the name of a third-party entity to appear in text at least as large as the smallest text in the digital material.

Proposed law defines "candidate", for purposes of campaign finance, to include members of the state central committee or a recognized political party, an officer of a recognized political party, member or officer of a parish executive committee of a recognized political party.

Proposed law defines "committee" for purposes of campaign finance, to include a recognized political party parish executive committee, a recognized party legislative delegation, or a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.

Proposed law defines "contribution" for purposes of campaign finance, to include that made to a parish executive committee or a recognized party legislative delegation which receives contributions in an aggregate amount in excess of \$5,000 within any calendar year or any amount received by a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.

Proposed law defines "coordinated expenditure" for purposes of campaign finance, to include those made by an individual, leadership committee, an independent-expenditure-only committee, or a political committee, and expenditures for electioneering communications.

Proposed law authorizes a committee to report expenditures made to a public relations firm, advertising agency, or agent as an expenditure made to the public relations firm, advertising agency, or agent if the expenditure is less than \$5,000; requires that expenditures of \$5,000 or more made to a public relations firm, advertising agency, or agent be reported as expenditures made to the payee.

Proposed law provides that "expenditure" includes any communications over the internet, except for disbursements for express advocacy communications placed or promoted for a fee on another person's website, digital device, application, or advertising platform. Provides that a communication is promoted for a fee where a payment is made to a website, digital device, application, or advertising platform in order to increase the circulation, prominence, or availability of the communication on that website, digital device, application, or advertising platform.

Proposed law defines "electioneering communication" to be any one of the following items:

- (1) A communication including 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.
- (2) A communication for which the only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the presentation, content and context 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.

Defines "Parish executive committee" means the committee of a recognized political party organized and operating in a parish pursuant to present law, the members of which are elected in accordance with the qualifications established by the state central committee of a recognized political party.

Defines a "recognized party legislative delegation" to be a delegation composed of the members of a single house of the legislature who are registered as members of the same political party and who form a caucus or delegation that elects officers by majority vote and who collaborate to solicit and collect contributions and make expenditures to support their joint efforts and to make contributions or expenditures.

Present law requires that reports of records involving payments to purchase raffle tickets or paraphernalia, other than expenditures made by a committee for its own paraphernalia, and payments for tickets to testimonials and similar fundraising events are contributions maintained, provided that no report is required as to any single transaction involving the sale of raffle tickets or paraphernalia which is for an amount not in excess of \$50 and the proceeds of which are received and deposited by a political committee, no record need be kept by the treasurer for the recipient committee, except the total amount received and deposited from the sale and the fact that the amount was received from the sale.

Proposed law retains these provisions but increases the \$50 amount to \$250.

Proposed law provides that as to certain reports filed with the supervisory committee the street number and street name of individual contributors is not to be made publicly available in any manner, including but not limited to disclosure on any governmental websites or in response to public records requests under the Public Records Law.

Proposed law changes certain reporting dates from February 15th to March 15th.

Present law provides that certain report requirements not apply to those filed by a leadership committee.

Proposed law retains present law but includes reports filed by a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.

Proposed law provides for purposes of required reports, a contribution is considered received the earlier of:

- (1) When the contribution is deposited into a designated account of the candidate or committee.
- (2) If the contribution is not to be distributed pursuant to a joint fundraising agreement, ten calendar days have passed since the contribution was delivered to the candidate or committee.

Provides that a contribution that is mailed to the candidate is considered to be delivered on the date of the postmark; an in-kind contribution is considered to be received on the date that the goods or services are provided by the contributor.

Proposed law provides that in lieu of filing a full report then authorizes a candidate or a committee to file a certification of no material activity if any of the following occurs during the reporting period:

- (1) No contributions were received in excess of \$250.
- (2) No expenditures were made in excess of \$500.
- (3) No loans were made or received in excess of \$250.
- (4) No transfers of funds occurred in excess of \$250.
- (5) No interest or investment earnings were earned in excess of \$500.

Requires that the certification include all of the following items:

- (1) Be made on a form prescribed by the supervisory committee.
- (2) Be signed by the candidate, chairman, or treasurer.
- (3) Affirm that there has been no reportable financial activity since the closing date of the last filed report, small campaign affidavit, or certification of no material activity.

Requires that this satisfy the reporting requirement for that reporting period and that anyone who knowingly files a false certification is subject the penalties provided in law.

Proposed law provides that the governor or gubernatorial transition and inauguration have not duty to file a statement of organization, a statement of dissolution, or to maintain certain records to file certain reports listed in proposed law.

Proposed law provides a comprehensive list of items for which surplus funds may be used.

Proposed law provides a comprehensive list for use of coordinated expenditures with any recognized political party, parish executive committee, or with a recognized party legislative delegation.

Proposed law includes a list of expenditures for contributions received by a recognized political party, parish executive committee, and a registered party legislative delegation.

Proposed law prohibits a person from making a contribution, directly or by joint fundraising agreement, more than \$25,000 per calendar year to a parish executive committee.

Proposed law prohibits a person from making a contribution, directly or by joint fundraising agreement, more than \$25,000 per calendar year to a parish executive committee or recognized party legislative delegation.

Proposed law requires that designated surplus campaign funds be refunded to the contributor if the contributor delivers a written request for refund to the candidate within ten calendar days of the date of the election. Provides that if no written request for refund is delivered within ten calendar days of the date of the election, the surplus campaign funds may be used for the following items:

- (1) For future political campaigns or activity related to preparing for future candidacy to elective office.
- (2) For any lawful purpose related to any of the following:
 - (a) Supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters.
 - (b) Supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer.
 - (c) Contributions, directly or by joint fundraising agreement, to any committee;
 - (d) Donations to an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - (e) Lobbying.
 - (f) Social and issue advocacy.
 - (g) 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.
 - (h) The payment of fines, fees, or penalties assessed against the respective candidate or committee for a violations of the campaign finance law.
- (3) For refunds to the designated contribution, or a portion thereof, to the contributor.

Proposed law provides that redesignated surplus campaign contributions received from a contributor are not be considered as a contribution from the contributor for the calculation of the amount contributed by the contributor to the candidate for the candidate's next election campaign. Requires that the limits on contributions calculated for each contributor shall remain separately applicable for each separate election.

Present law provides civil penalties for knowingly failing to file or timely file reports under present law. Proposed law provides that the amount of this penalty is \$100 per day, not to exceed \$2,500, for a gubernatorial transition.

Proposed law provides a civil penalty for failure to gubernatorial transition or inauguration reports in an amount not in excess of \$500.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 18:1463(C) and (E), 1483(3)(a)(intro para), 1483(6), (7)(a)(iii) and (iv), (b)(i), (ii) and (iv), (c)(ii), (8), (10), (11)(a), (b) and (c), (d)(i) and (ii), (13), (16), (17), (21)(b) and (d), (24), (26), 1491.1(A) and (D), 1491.2(A)(3)(a), 1491.5(B)(2)(a) and (H), 1491.6(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), 1491.6(E)(intro para), 1491.6(E)(1) and (J), 1491.7(B)(4), (5), (8), (10), (13), (14) and (22), 1491.8, 1491.9(C)(2), 1495.3(B)(2)(a) and (H), 1495.4(C)(1)(a) and (2), (D)(1), (3)(a) and (b), 1495.4(E)(intro para), 1495.4(E)(1), 1495.5(B)(5), (7), (12), (14) and (C), 1495.6, 1501.1(A), 1501.1(C)(intro para), 1501.3(C)(intro para), 1505.2(B)(2), (D)(3)(c), (G), (H)(1)(c), 1505.2(H)(2)(a)(intro para), 1505.2(H)(2)(c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (H)(3)(a), (v), (H)(3)(c), (I)(1)(a)(iii), (iv), (v), (I)(1)(b)(i)(cc), (I)(1)(b)(iii), 1505.2(I)(1)(c)(i)(intro para), 1505.2(I)(1)(c)(i)(bb), (cc) and (dd), (I)(1)(c)(ii), (I)(1)(c)(iii), (I)(1)(d)(i)(bb), (I)(1)(e)(i)(bb), (I)(1)(e)(ii)(bb) and (cc), 1505.2(I)(2)(a)(i)(dd), 1505.2(I)(2)(ii)(cc), 1505.2(I)(2)(v), 1505.2(I)(5)(a), 1505.2(7), 1505.2(K), 1505.2(L)(2), 1505.2(L)(5)(a)(ii), 1505.2(M)(5), 1505.2(O)(1), 1505.2.1(A)(1), (B), (C), (E), (F), (G), (H) and (I); adds R.S. 18:1483(7)(d)(vi), 1483(33) and (34), 1495.4(I), 1495.6.1, 1501.3(H), 1505.2(I)(1)(c)(i)(ee), 1505.2(I)(1)(e)(ii)(dd), 1505.2(1)(f), 1505.2(1)(g), 1505.2(1)(h), 1505.2.1(J), 1505.4(A)(2)(a)(vi) and 1505.5(B)(6); repeals R.S. 18:1463(C)(5))