
DIGEST

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Ritchie

HB No. 107

Abstract: Prohibits legislators from accepting campaign contributions from persons they nominate to receive free tuition at Tulane University and nominees' family members. Provides for return of such contributions and for enforcement and penalties.

Present law (Acts 1884, No. 43 as amended) provides for Tulane University to give free tuition to one student nominated by each member of the legislature and provides relative to the granting of such free tuition.

Proposed law amends the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA). Defines:

- (1) "Campaign contribution" – a "contribution" as defined in the CFDA or a loan.
- (2) "Immediate family" – the student or nominee's spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts, and the person's spouse's parents, children's spouses, brothers' spouses, sisters' spouses, uncles' spouses, and aunts' spouses.
- (3) "Nomination" – the submission by a legislator to Tulane University of the name of a person to be granted free tuition by Tulane University pursuant to Acts 1884, No. 43 as amended.
- (4) "Nominee" – a person nominated by a legislator to be granted free tuition by Tulane University pursuant to Acts 1884, No. 43 as amended.

Proposed law prohibits a legislator and a legislator's principal campaign committee from accepting a campaign contribution from a nominee or a member of a nominee's immediate family during the period from submission of the nomination to the university through one calendar year after the last day of the final semester the nominee receives free tuition. Requires the legislator to cause a campaign contribution received in violation of this prohibition to be returned to the contributor within 10 calendar days after receipt of such campaign contribution, or within 10 days after the legislator knows the contributor is a nominee or a member of a nominee's immediate family. Provides that a campaign contribution so returned shall be deemed to be not accepted.

Proposed law provides for enforcement of proposed law as provided in the CFDA. Provides a civil penalty for knowing violations of twice the amount of the campaign contribution or \$500, whichever is greater, instead of the penalties in the CFDA. Present law (CFDA) penalties for

violations related to district office (legislators), other than reporting violations, include civil penalties up to \$300 per violation (each day of violation, if applicable, is a separate offense with a maximum of \$60 per day or a total of \$2,000) and criminal penalties of up to six months in the parish jail and/or a fine of up to \$500.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:1505.2(T))