

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 640

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ELECTION OFFENSES: Provides relative to election offenses

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1461(B), relative to election offenses; to provide relative to  
3 the criminal penalties for certain election offenses; to provide for the criminal  
4 penalties for bribery of voters; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1461(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1461. Bribery of voters; penalties

8 \* \* \*

9 B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more  
10 than ~~two~~ four thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not  
11 more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any  
12 subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than ~~five~~ ten thousand  
13 dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

14 \* \* \*

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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HB 640 Original

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**Abstract:** Increases criminal fines for bribery of voters.

Present law provides that bribery of voters is the giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, any money, or anything of apparent present or prospective value to any voter at any general, primary, or special election, or at any convention of a recognized political party, with the intent to influence the voter in the casting of his ballot. Provides that the acceptance of, or the offer to accept, directly or indirectly, any money, or anything of apparent present or prospective value, by any such voters under such circumstances shall also constitute bribery of voters. Provides that bribery of voters is also the giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, any money or anything of apparent present or prospective value to secure or influence registration of a person or to secure or influence a person to sign or not to sign a recall or other election petition.

Present law provides that whoever violates present law shall be fined or imprisoned, or both. Provides for imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years for the first offense. Provides for imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years for a second or subsequent offense.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for a fine of not more than \$2,000 for the first offense and a fine of not more than \$5,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

Proposed law increases the fine for a first offense from not more than \$2,000 to not more than \$4,000 and increases the fine for a second or subsequent offense from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

(Amends R.S. 18:1461(B))