

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 186****2022 Regular Session****Stefanski**

ETHICS: Provides for the types of materials and the standard of knowledge of a false statement in the provisions relative to unethical election practices

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Add digital materials to the list of types of prohibited campaign materials containing statements that a candidate knows or should reasonably be expected to know is false regarding another candidate in the election.

Present law (ethics code) prohibits a candidate in an election from, with the intent to mislead the voters, distributing or causing to be distributed any oral, visual, or written material containing any statement which he knows makes a false statement about another candidate in the election.

Proposed law includes the distribution of digital materials containing false statements within the prohibition and further changes the standard of knowledge of such false statements to knows or should be reasonably expected to know regarding a false statement and otherwise retains the present law prohibition.

Present law (R.S. 42:1153), for violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics and other laws within jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics, by an elected official or other person (except violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which are governed by that Act) authorizes the board by a majority vote of the membership to censure the elected official or person, or impose a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both. For such violations by a public employee or other person, authorizes the board by the same vote to remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both. Present law applies to violations of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 42:1130.4)