

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 898

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

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

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1483(6)(a) and (9)(a) and to enact R.S. 18:1483(21), relative
3 to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act; to provide for definitions; to include
4 providing for electioneering communications in the definitions of contribution and
5 expenditure; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1483(6)(a) and (9)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
8 18:1483(21) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1483. Definitions

10 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings given
11 to each in this Section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 * * *

13 (6)(a) "Contribution", except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, means
14 a gift, conveyance, payment, or deposit of money or anything of value, or the
15 forgiveness of a loan or of a debt, made for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or
16 ~~otherwise influencing~~ providing for an electioneering communication in order to
17 influence the nomination or election of a person to public office, for the purpose of
18 supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for the

1 purpose of supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer, whether made before
2 or after the election.

3 * * *

4 (9)(a) "Expenditure" means a purchase, payment, advance, deposit, or gift,
5 of money or anything of value made for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or
6 ~~otherwise influencing~~ providing for an electioneering communication in order to
7 influence the nomination or election of a person to public office, for the purpose of
8 supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for the
9 purpose of supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer, whether made before
10 or after the election.

11 * * *

12 (21) "Electioneering communication" means the advertisement,
13 transmission, or distribution of any oral, visual, digital, or written material containing
14 any image, audio, video, or identity of a candidate to an audience that includes
15 members of the electorate for the office the candidate seeks made within thirty days
16 before an election for the office the candidate is seeking and that to a reasonable
17 person appears to be advocating for the election or defeat of one or more candidates
18 in the election.

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)]

HB 898 Original

2024 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

Abstract: Includes providing for electioneering communications in the definitions of contribution and expenditure for purposes of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

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 to a reasonable person appears 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))