

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 488

BY SENATOR CATHEY

ETHICS. Prohibits making false statements in elections regarding candidates. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:1130.4, relative to unethical election practices; to prohibit  
3 certain false statements by people and political committees; to provide for penalties;  
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 42:1130.4 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1130.4. False statements by candidate, **persons, or political committee**

8 No candidate in an election, **other person, or any political committee** shall,  
9 with the intent to mislead the voters, distribute or cause to be distributed any oral,  
10 visual, digital, or written material containing any statement which he knows or  
11 should be reasonably expected to know makes a false statement about another  
12 candidate in the election.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

---

SB 488 Original DIGEST 2024 Regular Session Cathey

Present law 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 or should be reasonably expected to know makes a false statement about another candidate in the election.

Proposed law retains present law and further prohibits any person or political committee from making such a statement.

Present law, 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 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.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 42:1130.4)