

DIGEST

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SB 488 Engrossed

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 political committee from making such a statement.

Present law defines "political committee" as any of the following:

- 1) Two or more persons, other than a husband and wife, and any legal entity organized for the primary purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates, propositions, recalls of a public officer, or political parties, which does any of the following:
 - a) Accepts contributions in the name of the committee, or makes expenditures from committee funds or in the name of the committee, or makes a transfer of funds to or receives a transfer of funds from another committee, or receives or makes loans in an aggregate amount in excess of \$500 within any calendar year.
 - b) Accepts direct payments for personal services related to an election or a campaign in the name of the committee in an aggregate amount in excess of \$500 within any calendar year, with certain exceptions.
- 2) Any state central committee, parish executive committee, and any other committee of any political party which receives contributions or makes expenditures in excess of \$500 during a calendar year.

Proposed law provides that "political committee" has the same meaning as provided in present law.

Present law authorizes the Bd. of Ethics by a majority vote of the membership to censure an elected official or person, or impose a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both, for certain violations. Present law applies to violations of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 42:1130.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide a definition for "political committee".
2. Exclude "other persons" from the prohibition against false statements.