

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 90

BY SENATORS EDMONDS, FESI, KLEINPETER, MIGUEZ, MILLER, REESE AND WOMACK

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

ELECTION OFFENSES. Prohibits betting or wagering on elections. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1461.7(A)(10), relative to election offenses; to prohibit betting or wagering on elections; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1461.7(A)(10) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

* * *

(10) Participate in any bet or wager that is based upon any contingency whatsoever that arises from an election conducted pursuant to this Title, including any of the following:

(a) Making an offer to bet or wager on an election.

(b) Accepting a bet or wager on an election.

(c) Taking a share or monetary interest in a bet or wager on an election.

(d) Providing money to be used by another person in making a bet or wager on an election.

(e) Act in any manner to become a party to a bet or wager on an election.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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Present law provides that it is unlawful for a person to knowingly, willfully, or intentionally commit any of the following election offenses:

- (1) Failure to submit to the parish registrar of voters a completed registration application collected through a third-party voter registration drive within 30 days of receipt of the completed application.
- (2) Allow a ballot to be seen or announced in a manner that violates a voter's right to a secret ballot.
- (3) Failure to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter, when the voter requires assistance.
- (4) Knowingly making a false medical certification regarding the disability of the voter.
- (5) Transmit or otherwise provide false or misleading information concerning an election from a source disguised to appear or impersonating the secretary of state, a registrar of voters, a clerk of court, or other election official.
- (6) Facilitate the distribution and collection of an application for an absentee ballots or an absentee ballot in violation of present law.

Present law provides that the penalties for violating an election offense under present law is a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, for the first offense. On a second or any subsequent offense, the penalty is a fine of not more than \$2,500 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

Proposed law retains present law but adds betting or wagering on an election to the list of election offenses.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 18:1461.7(A)(10))