

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 183

BY SENATOR MORRIS

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

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Creates the crime of unlawful accepting of a thing of value by a legislator. (8/1/25)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:134.4, relative to official misconduct and corrupt practices; to create the crime of unlawful accepting of a thing of value by a legislator; to provide the elements of the offense; to provide definitions; to provide penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:134.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§134.4. Unlawful accepting of a thing of value by a legislator**

**A.(1) It shall be unlawful for a legislator or his spouse to accept any thing of economic value, either directly or indirectly, from a nongovernmental organization that receives any funds designated either directly by the Louisiana Legislature or a state agency.**

**(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to aid or abet any act prohibited by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.**

**B. As used in this Section:**

**(1) "Legislator" means a sitting member of the Louisiana Legislature.**

**(2) "Nongovernmental organization" means a nonprofit group or**

organization that receives funds from a governmental agency, department, office, bureau, or other governmental entity administered by any branch or political subdivision of either a foreign or domestic government.

(3) "Thing of economic value" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 42:1102, except that for purposes of this Section, "thing of economic value" shall not include fundraiser event tickets, meals, or reimbursable expenses that do not exceed a value of one thousand dollars in a calendar year.

C. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not less than five thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than one year nor more than five years, or both.

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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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#### DIGEST

SB 183 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Morris

Proposed law creates the crime of unlawful accepting of a thing of value by a legislator and makes it a crime for legislators, or their spouses, to accept a thing of economic value from a nongovernmental organization that receives any funds designated either directly by the La. legislature or a state agency. Proposed law also makes it a crime for any person to aid or abet any act prohibited by proposed law.

Proposed law provides definitions relative to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a person convicted of unlawful accepting of a thing of value by a legislator will be fined between \$5,000 and \$10,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, between one and five years, or both.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 14:134.4)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Make technical changes
2. Change the applicability of proposed law from public servants and their immediate families to legislators and their spouses.