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## DIGEST

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Richard

HB No. 235

**Abstract:** Limits information in connection with a proposition on an election ballot that may be disseminated using public funds to information in the proposition or notice of election.

Present law provides procedures and requirements for elections at which a proposition or question is submitted to voters; includes requirements and procedures applicable to bond, debt, and tax elections and requirements and procedures applicable to other types of propositions.

Present law requires the governing authority calling the election to prepare the proposition that is to be submitted to the voters. Requires the proposition to be comprised of simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood language and be in the form of a question. Limits the length of the proposition to 200 words. Present law, relative to bond, debt, and tax proposition elections, requires publication of a notice of the election and requires the notice to be transmitted to the secretary of state. Present law, relative to other proposition elections, requires written notice of the election to be transmitted to the secretary of state, the commissioner of elections, and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. Present law provides for the content of both types of proposition election notices.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present constitution (Art. XI, §4) and present law (R.S. 18:1465) provide that no public funds shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition, or be appropriated to a candidate or political organization. Provides that present constitution and present law do not prohibit the use of public funds for dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.

Proposed law limits the factual information relative to a proposition that may be disseminated using public funds to information in the proposition or notice of election. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1465) provides that whoever violates present law shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both. Proposed law makes present law penalties applicable to proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 18:1465(A))