
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 556 Original

2026 Regular Session

Chassion

Abstract: Prohibits the Board of Ethics from providing for conditional waivers of late fees assessed pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics or Campaign Finance Disclosure Act and requires the Board of Ethics, acting as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, to provide notification if a candidate, committee treasurer or chairman, or other filer fails to timely file a campaign finance disclosure and provides for a 7-day period to correct the filing before fees may accrue.

Present law (Code of Governmental Ethics) provides that Board of Ethics (board) enforces the provisions of the Ethics Code. Present law (Campaign Finance Disclosure Act - CFDA) further provides that the board, acting as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure (supervisory committee), enforces the provisions of the CFDA.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the board to provide notification to a filer when he has failed to timely file a disclosure required by the Ethics Code and provides a 7-day period to correct the error before late fees may accrue.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the same of the board, when acting as the supervisory committee, when a candidate, the treasurer or chairman of any committee, or other person required to file reports under the CFDA fails to timely or accurately file a report as follows:

- (1) If the person fails to timely file a report, or omits any information required to be included in the report, or the board has reason to believe information included in the report is inaccurate, the supervisory committee shall notify person of such failure, omission, or inaccuracy by sending him by certified mail or service of process a notice of delinquency immediately upon discovery thereof. Requires the staff of the supervisory committee to mail by certified mail a notice of delinquency within four days after the due date of which the staff knows or has reason to know, for any report or statement due which has not been timely filed.
- (2) The notice of delinquency shall inform the person that the report must be filed, or that the information must be disclosed or accurately disclosed, or that a written answer contesting the allegation must be filed no later than seven business days after receipt of the notice. The notice shall include the deadline for filing the statement, filing the answer, or disclosing or accurately disclosing the information.

- (3) The board shall inform the person in the notice that failure to file the report, to disclose or accurately disclose the information, or to file an answer contesting the allegation by the deadline may result in the imposition of penalties.
- (4) If the person files the statement, provides the omitted information, or corrects the inaccurate information prior to the deadline contained in the notice, no penalties shall be assessed. If the person files a written answer contesting the allegations prior to the deadline contained in the notice of delinquency, no penalties shall be assessed until a determination is made that a violation occurred.
- (5) If the person fails to file the statement, fails to provide the omitted information, fails to correct the inaccurate information, or fails to file a written answer prior to the deadline contained in the notice of delinquency, he may be subject to assessment of the penalties for each day until the statement, omitted information, corrected information, or written answer is filed.
- (6) Upon a finding by the board in connection with a written answer that no violation has occurred, no penalties shall be assessed against the candidate, the treasurer or chairman, or other person. If the board finds in connection with a written answer that the candidate, the treasurer or chairman, or other person has failed to file the statement or failed to disclose or accurately disclose the required information, he shall be subject to assessment of the penalties for each day until the statement is filed, until the omitted information is filed, or until the inaccurate information is corrected.

Present law provides that in addition to daily penalties, for reports which are required to be filed between the time a candidate qualifies and election day, the supervisory committee may impose an additional civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 on a person who has not filed such report by the sixth day after the report is due, and an additional \$10,000 civil penalty for failure to file such report by the 11th day after the report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Proposed law retains present law except to provide that a report shall be considered due on the deadline contained in the notice of delinquency provided for in proposed law.

Present law authorizes the board, when acting as the supervisory committee, to waive all or part of any civil penalties assessed for failure to file or failure to timely file a report as required by the CFDA. Present law further authorizes the board to waive all or part of the late filing fees assessed pursuant to the Ethics Code.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that any waiver granted by the board shall be permanent in effect and the board shall not grant conditional waivers, such as a waiver pending future compliance with any law under its jurisdiction.

(Amends R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(1), (B), and (E) and 1511.4.1(B) and R.S. 42:1157(A)(1)(b); Adds R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(4)(c) and (F) and 1511.4.1(E))