

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 694

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

ETHICS/BOARD: Provides relative to penalties for failure to timely or accurately file required reports

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(a) and (4), R.S. 24:58(D)(1) and (2), R.S.
3 33:9668(D)(1) and (2), R.S. 42:1114.2(G)(2), 1114.3(C)(4)(b), 1124.1(A)(2) and (B),
4 1124.4 (C)(1), (2), (3), and (4) and (D)(1)(b), 1153, and 1157(A)(2) and (4), and R.S.
5 49:78(D)(1) and (2), relative to fees, fines, and penalties assessed by the Board of
6 Ethics and Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure; to provide for
7 penalties assessed for late and inaccurate filings required by the Code of
8 Governmental Ethics; to provide for penalties assessed for late and inaccurate filings
9 required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act; to provide for penalties assessed
10 for late and inaccurate filings required by the lobbying disclosure laws; to provide
11 for daily fees, fines, and penalties; to provide for maximum fees, fines, and penalties;
12 to provide for the assessment of criminal penalties; and to provide for related
13 matters.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(a) and (4) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
16 as follows:

17 §1505.4. Civil penalties; failure to file; timely and accurate filing; forfeiture

18 A.

19 * * *

20 (2)(a) The amount of such penalty may be:

1 (i) ~~One hundred~~ Fifty dollars per day, not to exceed ~~two thousand five~~
2 ~~hundred~~ one thousand two hundred fifty dollars, for each candidate for major office
3 and any treasurer or chairman of any committee designated as a principal campaign
4 committee or subsidiary committee of such a candidate.

5 (ii) ~~Sixty~~ Thirty dollars per day, not to exceed ~~one thousand~~ five hundred
6 dollars, for any candidate for district office and any treasurer or chairman of any
7 committee designated as a principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee
8 of such a candidate.

9 (iii) ~~Forty~~ Twenty dollars per day, not to exceed ~~five hundred~~ two hundred
10 fifty dollars, for any candidate for all other offices and any treasurer or chairman of
11 any committee designated as a principal campaign committee or subsidiary
12 committee of such a candidate.

13 (iv) ~~Forty~~ Twenty dollars per day, not to exceed ~~one thousand~~ five hundred
14 dollars, for any person or the treasurer or chairman of any political committee or
15 independent expenditure-only committee, not supporting or opposing a candidate,
16 but only supporting or opposing any proposition or question submitted to the voters
17 or any the recall of a public officer.

18 (v) ~~Two~~ One hundred dollars per day, not to exceed ~~three~~ one thousand five
19 hundred dollars, for the treasurer or chairman of any political committee or
20 independent expenditure-only committee supporting or opposing a candidate, other
21 than a candidate's principal or subsidiary campaign committee.

22 * * *

23 (4)(a) For reports required by this Chapter which are required to be filed
24 between the time a candidate qualifies and election day, in addition to any penalties
25 which may be imposed under this Section or any other law, the supervisory
26 committee may impose on any person required to file such a report who has not filed
27 such report by the sixth day after the report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing by
28 an adjudicatory panel of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board conducted in accordance
29 with the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, with notice to the party who

1 is the subject of the hearing, an additional civil penalty not to exceed ~~ten~~ five
2 thousand dollars.

3 (b) For all other reports required by this Chapter, in addition to any penalties
4 which may be imposed by this Section or any other law, the supervisory committee
5 may impose on any person required to file such a report who has not filed such report
6 by the eleventh day after the report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing by an
7 adjudicatory panel of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board conducted in accordance with
8 the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, with notice to the party who is
9 the subject of the hearing, an additional civil penalty not to exceed ~~ten~~ five thousand
10 dollars.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. R.S. 24:58(D)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
13 follows:

14 §58. Enforcement

15 * * *

16 D. In addition to any other applicable penalties:

17 (1)(a) Any person required to register and who fails to timely register and
18 any person who fails to timely file any report required by this Part shall be assessed,
19 pursuant to R.S. 42:1157, a late fee of ~~fifty~~ twenty five dollars per day.

20 (b) However, any person who fails to timely file a lobbyist expenditure
21 report filed pursuant to R.S. 24:55(G) or R.S. 49:76(G) which contains all of the
22 information required by this Part and Part IV of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the
23 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall be assessed, pursuant to R.S. 42:1157, a
24 late fee of ~~fifty~~ twenty five dollars per day.

25 (2) Any person whose registration or report is filed eleven or more days after
26 the day on which it was due may be assessed, in addition to any late fees pursuant
27 to this Section, after a hearing by the board, a civil penalty not to exceed ~~one~~
28 thousand five hundred dollars.

29 * * *

1 Section 3. R.S. 33:9668(D)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
2 follows:

3 §9668. Enforcement

4 * * *

5 D. In addition to any other applicable penalties:

6 (1) Any person required to register and who fails to timely register and any
7 person who fails to timely file any report required by this Chapter shall be assessed,
8 pursuant to R.S. 42:1157, a late fee of ~~forty~~ twenty five dollars per day.

9 (2) Any person whose registration or report is filed eleven or more days after
10 the day on which it was due may be assessed, in addition to any late fees pursuant
11 to this Section, after a hearing by the board, a civil penalty not to exceed ~~one~~
12 ~~thousand~~ five hundred dollars.

13 * * *

14 Section 4. R.S. 42:1114.2(G)(2), 1114.3(C)(4)(b), 1124.1(A)(2) and (B), 1124.4
15 (C)(1), (2), (3), and (4) and (D)(1)(b), 1153, and 1157(A)(2) and (4) are hereby amended and
16 reenacted to read as follows:

17 §1114.2. Financial disclosure; retirement systems

18 * * *

19 G.

20 * * *

21 (2) Whoever fails to file a report required by this Section, or knowingly and
22 willfully fails to timely file any such report, or knowingly and willfully fails to
23 disclose or to accurately disclose any information required by this Section shall be
24 assessed a civil penalty pursuant to R.S. 42:1157 for each day until such report or the
25 required accurate information is filed. The amount of the penalty shall be ~~one~~
26 ~~hundred~~ fifty dollars per day.

27 * * *

28 §1114.3. Disaster or emergency contracts; prohibition; disclosure

29 * * *

1 C.

2 * * *

3 (4)

4 * * *

5 (b) In addition to other applicable penalties, whoever fails to file a statement
6 required by this Section, or knowingly and willfully fails to timely file any such
7 statement, or knowingly and willfully fails to disclose or to accurately disclose any
8 information required by this Section shall be assessed a civil penalty in accordance
9 with R.S. 42:1157 for each day until such statement or the required accurate
10 information is filed. The amount of the penalty shall be ~~one hundred~~ fifty dollars per
11 day.

12 * * *

13 §1124.1. Penalties; required reports; failure to file; timely and accurate filing

14 A.

15 * * *

16 (2) The amount of such penalty shall be ~~two hundred fifty~~ one hundred
17 dollars per day for statements required by R.S. 42:1114.

18 B. Whoever knowingly and willfully files a false report required by this Part,
19 except for statements required by R.S. 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1, or 1124.3, shall
20 be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than
21 ~~one thousand~~ five hundred dollars nor more than ~~ten~~ five thousand dollars or
22 imprisoned in parish prison for not more than six months, or both. Any prosecution
23 under this Subsection shall be tried before a jury of six persons, all of whom must
24 concur to render a verdict.

25 * * *

26 §1124.4. Penalties

27 * * *

28 C. Penalties may be assessed as follows:

1 (1) ~~Five hundred~~ Two hundred fifty dollars per day for financial statements
2 required by R.S. 42:1124.

3 (2) ~~One hundred~~ Fifty dollars per day for statements required by R.S.
4 42:1124.2.

5 (3) ~~Fifty~~ Twenty five dollars per day for statements required by R.S.
6 42:1124.2.1.

7 (4) ~~Twenty-five~~ Ten dollars per day for statements required by R.S.
8 42:1124.3.

9 * * *

10 D.(1)

11 * * *

12 (b)(i) Upon first conviction thereof, the person shall be fined not less than
13 ~~one thousand~~ five hundred dollars nor more than ~~five thousand~~ two thousand five
14 hundred dollars.

15 (ii) Upon a second or subsequent conviction for violation of the same
16 reporting requirement, the person shall be fined not less than ~~one thousand~~ five
17 hundred dollars nor more than ~~ten~~ five thousand dollars.

18 * * *

19 §1153. Penalties

20 A. Upon a determination that any elected official or other person has violated
21 any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics except
22 violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which shall be governed by
23 Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the Ethics
24 Adjudicatory Board may censure the elected official or person, or impose a fine of
25 not more than ~~ten~~ five thousand dollars, or both.

26 B. Upon a determination that any public employee or other person has
27 violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics
28 except violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which shall be governed
29 by Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the Ethics

1 Adjudicatory Board may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion
2 of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ~~ten~~ five
3 thousand dollars, or both.

4 * * *

5 §1157. Late filing fees

6 A.

7 * * *

8 (2) The late filing fees for any lobbyist required to register and file reports
9 under the provisions of R.S. 24:50 et seq., shall be as provided in R.S. 24:58(D). The
10 late filing fees for any lobbyist required to register and file reports under the
11 provisions of R.S. 49:71 et seq., shall be as provided in R.S. 49:78(D); however, the
12 late filing fees applicable to a lobbyist for a lobbyist expenditure report filed
13 pursuant to R.S. 24:55(G) or R.S. 49:76(G) which contains all of the information
14 required by Part IV of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
15 1950 and all of the information required by Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 24 of the
16 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall be ~~fifty~~ twenty five dollars per day. The
17 late filing fees for any lobbyist required to register and file reports under the
18 provisions of R.S. 33:9661 et seq., shall be as provided in R.S. 33:9668(D).

19 * * *

20 (4) Any late filing fees assessed by the Board of Ethics or its staff, for any
21 failure to timely file any report or statement due, shall not exceed the following:

22 (a) If the fee is ~~twenty-five~~ ten dollars per day, the maximum shall be ~~five~~
23 ~~hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars.

24 (b) If the fee is ~~forty~~ twenty dollars per day, the maximum shall be ~~one~~
25 ~~thousand~~ five hundred dollars.

26 (c) If the fee is ~~fifty~~ twenty five dollars per day, the maximum shall be ~~one~~
27 ~~thousand five hundred~~ seven hundred fifty dollars, except that the maximum shall
28 be ~~five hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars for fees assessed pursuant to Paragraph (2)

1 of this Subsection. The computation of days provided for in this Subparagraph shall
2 not include Saturdays, Sundays, or other legal holidays.

3 (d) If the fee is ~~sixty~~ thirty dollars per day, the maximum shall be ~~two~~ one
4 thousand dollars.

5 (e) If the fee is ~~one hundred~~ fifty dollars per day, the maximum shall be ~~two~~
6 ~~thousand five hundred~~ one thousand two hundred fifty dollars.

7 (f) If the fee is ~~two~~ one hundred dollars per day, the maximum shall be ~~three~~
8 ~~thousand~~ one thousand five hundred dollars.

9 (g) If the fee is ~~five hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars per day, the maximum
10 shall be ~~twelve thousand five hundred~~ six thousand two hundred fifty dollars.

11 * * *

12 Section 5. R.S. 49:78(D)(1) and (2) are amended and reenacted to read as follows:

13 §78. Enforcement

14 * * *

15 D. In addition to any other applicable penalties:

16 (1)(a) Any person required to register and who fails to timely register and
17 any person who fails to timely file any report required by this Part shall be assessed,
18 pursuant to R.S. 42:1157, a late fee of ~~fifty~~ twenty five dollars per day.

19 (b) However, any person who fails to timely file a lobbyist expenditure
20 report filed pursuant to R.S. 24:55(G) or R.S. 49:76(G) which contains all of the
21 information required by this Part and Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 24 of the
22 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall be assessed, pursuant to R.S. 42:1157, a
23 late fee of ~~fifty~~ twenty five dollars per day.

24 (2) Any person whose registration or report is filed eleven or more days after
25 the day on which it was due may be assessed, in addition to any late fees pursuant
26 to this Section, after a hearing by the board, a civil penalty not to exceed ~~one~~
27 ~~thousand~~ five hundred dollars.

28 * * *

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 694 Original

2026 Regular Session

Chassion

Abstract: Lowers fees assessed by the Board of Ethics and associated criminal penalties for late or inaccurate ethics, campaign finance disclosure, and lobbying disclosure filings.

Present law (R.S. 42:1132) requires the Board of Ethics to administer and enforce the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics; the legislative, executive branch, and local governmental lobbying registration and disclosure requirements; and, when functioning as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Campaign finance disclosure penalties

Present law (R.S. 18:1505.4) provides that any candidate, the treasurer or chairman of a committee, or any other person required to file any campaign finance disclosure reports, who knowingly fails to file or who knowingly fails to timely file any such reports may be assessed a civil penalty for each day until such report is filed.

For reports filed by a candidate for major office or the principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee of such a candidate, present law imposes a penalty of \$100 a day, not to exceed \$2,500. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$50 a day, not to exceed \$1,250.

For reports filed by a candidate for district office or the principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee of such a candidate, present law imposes a penalty of \$60 a day, not to exceed \$1,000. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$30 a day, not to exceed \$500.

For reports filed by a candidate for any other office or the principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee of such a candidate, present law imposes a penalty of \$40 a day, not to exceed \$500. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$20 a day, not to exceed \$250.

For reports filed by any person or any political committee or independent expenditure-only committee, not supporting or opposing a candidate, but only supporting or opposing any proposition or question submitted to the voters or any the recall of a public officer, present law imposes a penalty of \$40 a day, not to exceed \$1,000. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$20 a day, not to exceed \$500.

For reports filed by any political committee or independent expenditure-only committee supporting or opposing a candidate, other than a candidate's principal or subsidiary campaign committee, present law imposes a penalty of \$200 a day, not to exceed \$3,000. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$100 a day, not to exceed \$1,500.

Present law provides that for reports which are required to be filed between the time a candidate qualifies and election day, the supervisory committee may impose on any person required to file such a report who has not filed such report by the sixth day after the report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing, an additional civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000. Proposed law lowers the additional penalty to \$5,000.

Present law provides that for any other reports which are required to be filed, the supervisory committee may impose on any person required to file such a report who has not filed such

report by the 11th day after the report is due, after an adjudicatory hearing, an additional civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000. Proposed law lowers the additional penalty to \$5,000.

Ethics disclosure penalties

Present law (R.S. 42:1114) requires public servants, legislators, elected officials, and their immediate family members to disclose certain transactions with their agency, the state, or a political subdivision of the state, under certain circumstances. Present law provides that a person who fails to file the required disclosure or knowingly and willfully fails to timely file any such statement, or knowingly and willfully fails to disclose or to accurately disclose any required information shall be assessed a civil penalty of \$250 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$100 per day.

Present law (R.S. 42:1114.2) provides that each person who has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with a state or statewide public retirement system shall file with the board a report of all expenditures for a retirement official or retirement officials.

Present law provides that whoever fails to file such a report or knowingly and willfully fails to timely file any such report, or knowingly and willfully fails to disclose or to accurately disclose any required information shall be fined \$100 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$50 per day.

Present law (R.S. 42:1114.3) requires disclosure of certain contracts related to disasters or emergencies. Present law provides that whoever fails to file such a statement or knowingly and willfully fails to timely file any such statement, or knowingly and willfully fails to disclose or to accurately disclose any required information shall be fined \$100 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$50 per day.

Present law provides for personal financial disclosures required of statewide elected officials, department secretaries, and other certain public servants (Tier 1). Present law provides for penalties for failure to file, timely file, or accurately file such disclosures to be assessed at \$500 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$250 per day.

Present law provides for personal financial disclosures of certain public servants including legislators, members of the Board of Ethics, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Pardons, among others (Tier 2). Present law provides for penalties for failure to file, timely file, or accurately file such disclosures to be assessed at \$100 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$50 per day.

Present law provides for personal financial disclosures of persons appointed to a state board or commission (Tier 2.1) who made a contribution or loan to a campaign of the official who appointed him. Present law provides for penalties for failure to file, timely file, or accurately file such disclosures to be assessed at \$50 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$25 per day.

Present law provides for personal financial disclosures of elected officials of voting districts with a population under 5,000, among others (Tier 3). Present law provides for penalties for failure to file, timely file, or accurately file such disclosures to be assessed at \$25 per day. Proposed law lowers the penalty to \$10 per day.

Present law provides that a person has willfully and knowingly failed to file a personal financial disclosure statement, willfully and knowingly failed to timely file a statement, willfully and knowingly omitted information from a statement, or willfully and knowingly provided inaccurate information in a statement shall subject the person to prosecution for a misdemeanor. Present law provides that upon first conviction, the person shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000; upon a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be fined not less than \$1,000 dollars nor more than \$10,000 dollars. Proposed law

lowers the fine for the first conviction to not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,500; lowers the fine for a second or subsequent conviction to not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000.

Present law (R.S. 42:1124.1) provides that whoever fails to file a financial statement required by the Ethics Code or whoever knowingly and willfully fails to timely file any such statement, or knowingly and willfully fails to disclose or to accurately disclose any information required by the Ethics Code shall be assessed a civil penalty for each day until such statement or the required accurate information is filed.

Present law provides the maximum filing fee is as follows, unless otherwise provided:

- (1) If the fee is \$25 per day, the maximum shall be \$500. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$10 per day, the maximum shall be \$250.
- (2) If the fee is \$40 per day, the maximum shall be \$1,000. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$20 per day, the maximum shall be \$500.
- (3) If the fee is \$50 per day, the maximum shall be \$1,500. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$25 per day, the maximum shall be \$750.
- (4) If the fee is \$60 per day, the maximum shall be \$2,000. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$30 per day, the maximum shall be \$1,000.
- (5) If the fee is \$100 per day, the maximum shall be \$2,500. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$50 per day, the maximum shall be \$1,250.
- (6) If the fee is \$200 per day, the maximum shall be \$3,000. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$100 per day, the maximum shall be \$1,500.
- (7) If the fee is \$500 per day, the maximum shall be \$12,500. Proposed law instead provides that if the fee is \$250 per day, the maximum shall be \$6,250.

Present law provides that whoever files a false report, other than a personal financial disclosure, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 dollars or imprisoned in parish prison for not more than six months, or both. Proposed law lowers the criminal fine to no less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000.

Lobbyist registration and disclosure penalties

Present law (R.S. 25:50, et seq.) requires legislative lobbyists to register and to file expenditure reports with the board. Present law (R.S. 49:71, et seq.) further requires executive branch lobbyists to register and to file expenditure reports with the board. Present law (R.S. 33:9661 et seq.) further requires local government lobbyists to register and file expenditure reports with the board.

In regulating legislative, executive branch, and local government lobbyists, present law provides that any person required to register and who fails to timely register and any person who fails to timely file any report or fails to timely file a complete expenditure report shall be assessed a late fee of \$50 dollars per day. Proposed law lowers the late fee to \$25 per day.

Present law provides that any person whose registration or report is filed 11 or more days after the day on which it was due may be assessed, in addition to any late fees, after a hearing by the board, a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000. Proposed law lowers the additional penalty to \$500.

Present law (R.S. 42:1157) provides that the maximum amount of late fees for all lobbyist registrations and disclosures is \$500. Proposed law lowers the maximum fee to \$250.

(Amends R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(a) and (4), R.S. 24:58(D)(1) and (2), R.S. 33:9668(D)(1) and (2), R.S. 42:1114.2(G)(2), 1114.3(C)(4)(b), 1124.1(A)(2) and (B), 1124.4 (C)(1)-(4) and (D)(1)(b), 1153, and 1157(A)(2) and (4), and R.S. 49:78(D)(1) and (2))