

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 495

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

ELECTION CODE. Provides for campaign finance disclosures. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1463(C) and (E), 1483(7)(a)(iv), (7)(b)(i), (10), (11)(b)(ii),

3 (11)(d)(i), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1583(21)(b) and (d),

4 1491.5(B)(2)(a), 1491.6(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), the introductory paragraph of R.S.

5 18:1491.6(E), (E)(1), (J), 1491.7(B)(4)(a), (B)(5), 1495.3(B)(2)(a), 1495.4(D)(1),

6 (D)(3)(a) and (b), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1495.4(E), (E)(1),

7 1495.5(B)(5), 1501.3(C), 1505.2(B)(2), (H)(1)(c), (H)(2)(c) and (e), 1505.2(H)(3)(c),

8 the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(a), 1505.2(I)(1)(b)(i)(cc),

9 (I)(1)(c)(iii), (I)(2)(a)(i)(dd), (I)(2)(a)(ii)(cc), (I)(2)(a)(v), (I)(7), 1505.2.1(A)(1) and

10 (G)(2) and to enact R.S. 18:1463(H) and 1483(11)(d)(vi), relative to campaign

11 finance; to provide relative to campaign contributions and expenditures; to define

12 and provide for electioneering communications; to define a recognized party

13 legislative delegation; to provide for contributions and expenditures by a delegation;

14 to provide for contributions and expenditures under joint fundraising agreements; to

15 define a recognized political party and parish executive committee and provide for

16 contributions to and expenditures by a recognized political party, a parish executive

17 committee, or leadership committee; to provide that the term committee includes a

1 recognized political party parish executive committee, recognized party legislative
2 delegation, or gubernatorial transition or inauguration; to provide reporting
3 requirements; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 18:1463(C) and (E), 1483(7)(a)(iv), (7)(b)(i), (10), (11)(b)(ii),
6 (11)(d)(i), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1583(21)(b) and (d), 1491.5(B)(2)(a),
7 1491.6(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1491.6(E), (E)(1), (J),
8 1491.7(B)(4)(a), (B)(5), 1495.3(B)(2)(a), 1495.4(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), the introductory
9 paragraph of R.S. 18:1495.4(E), (E)(1), 1495.5(B)(5), 1501.3(C), 1505.2(B)(2), (H)(1)(c),
10 (H)(2)(c) and (e), 1505.2(H)(3)(c), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(a),
11 1505.2(I)(1)(b)(i)(cc), (I)(1)(c)(iii), (I)(2)(a)(i)(dd), (I)(2)(a)(ii)(cc), (I)(2)(a)(v), (I)(7),
12 1505.2.1(A)(1) and (G)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:1463(H) and
13 1483(11)(d)(vi) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §1463. Political material; ethics; prohibitions

15 * * *

16 C.(1) No person shall cause to be distributed, or transmitted, any oral, visual,
17 digital, or written material containing any statement which he knows or should be
18 reasonably expected to know makes a false statement about a candidate for election
19 in a primary or general election or about a proposition to be submitted to the voters.

20 (2) Whenever any person, ~~political committee, entity or organization~~ **as**
21 **defined in R.S. 18:1483**, makes a disbursement for the purpose of the financing of
22 any electioneering communication, such communication **as defined in R.S. 18:1483**
23 shall comply with the following items under the following circumstances:

24 (a) If the communication is paid for and authorized by a candidate, an
25 authorized political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state that
26 the communication has been paid for by such authorized political committee. The
27 name of the political committee paying for the communication shall be given in full
28 and no acronyms shall be used.

29 (b) If the communication is paid for by other persons, but authorized by a

1 candidate, an authorized political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall
2 clearly state that the communication is paid for by such other persons and authorized
3 by such authorized political committee. The name of the authorized political
4 committee shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

5 (c) If the communication is not authorized by a candidate, a ~~political~~
6 **principal campaign** committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state the
7 (i) name, (ii) physical address (not post office box), ~~and (iii) telephone number and,~~
8 **or** the world-wide web address if available of the person, ~~committee, entity or~~
9 ~~organization~~ **as defined in R.S. 18:1483**, who paid for the communication; **and (iii)**
10 and state that the communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate
11 committee. The name of the payer shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be
12 used.

13 **(d) In visual and oral political announcements or advertisements, the**
14 **statement required by this Subsection shall be included so that it is clearly**
15 **understandable as well as audible or visible for not less than four seconds.**

16 **(e) In digital announcements or advertisements, the name of the**
17 **third-party entity shall appear in text sized at least as large as the smallest text**
18 **in the digital material or in a heading or similar section of text displayed above**
19 **or within the digital material that is visually distinct from the remainder of the**
20 **digital material's text and shall have a reasonable degree of color contrast**
21 **between the background and the name of the third-party entity.**

22 ~~(3) If an individual, association, organization, committee, or corporation is~~
23 ~~responsible for or causes the distribution or transmission of any statements relative~~
24 ~~to candidates or propositions which do not fully disclose the name of the individual~~
25 ~~or the name of the association, organization, committee, or corporation, and the full~~
26 ~~and correct name and address of its chairman or other chief administrative officer~~
27 ~~and whether or not such individual, association, organization, committee, or~~
28 ~~corporation supports or opposes such candidate or proposition, such individual,~~
29 ~~association, organization, committee, or corporation shall report all expenditures~~

1 ~~understandable as well as audible and visible for not less than three seconds. If the~~
 2 ~~advertisement is placed by a public relations firm, advertising agency, media buyer,~~
 3 ~~or other person who purchases media advertising or time or space for such~~
 4 ~~advertising, such person shall provide the information required by this Section.~~

5 ~~(3) In digital announcements or advertisements, the name of the third-party~~
 6 ~~entity shall appear in a text sized at least as large as the smallest text in the digital~~
 7 ~~material or in a heading or similar section of text displayed above or within the~~
 8 ~~digital material that is visually distinct from the remainder of the digital material's~~
 9 ~~text and shall have a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and~~
 10 ~~the name of the third-party entity.~~

11 ~~(4)~~ For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual,
 12 partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal
 13 entity, including its subsidiaries.

14 ~~(5)~~(2)(a) A media entity who broadcasts a paid political announcement or
 15 advertisement, the content of which the broadcaster has no input in or control over,
 16 is not subject to the provisions of this Subsection.

17 (b) For purposes of this Subsection, a media entity includes a radio broadcast
 18 station, television broadcast station, cable or satellite television company, or other
 19 video service provider, streaming video provider, newspaper company, periodical
 20 company, billboard company, advertisement agency, or media platform responsible
 21 for the production or publication of any advertisement, voice, data, or other
 22 communications, information services, or internet access provider, or bona fide news
 23 or public interest website operator.

24 * * *

25 **H. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a media entity that**
 26 **broadcasts a paid political announcement or advertisement, in which the**
 27 **broadcaster has had no input in or control over the announcement or**
 28 **advertisement. As used in this Subsection, the term "media entity" includes a**
 29 **radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, cable or satellite television**

1 required to file reports under this Chapter and the treasurer of such recipient, if any,
 2 determines that its value or the use value, when only the right of use is given,
 3 exceeds ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars and such determination shall be prima facie
 4 evidence of the correctness of the valuation of the item or of the use value when
 5 applicable. In addition, successive donations made by the same person, which
 6 donations individually are valued below ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars but which
 7 together exceed such amount, shall be deemed to be in-kind contributions and shall
 8 be aggregated for purposes of the requirements of this Chapter.

9 * * *

10 (10) "Election" means any party primary, **second party primary**, primary,
 11 general, special, or other election held, pursuant to the laws of this state or a parish
 12 or municipal charter or ordinance or a court order, to choose a public officer or
 13 nominee. For purposes of the reporting requirements for the support or opposition
 14 of a proposition or question submitted to the voters, "election" shall also mean any
 15 **party primary, second party primary**, primary, general, or special election, except
 16 local option elections held pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 3 of Title 26 of the
 17 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, at which a proposition or question is submitted
 18 to the voters in accordance with Chapters 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C of this Code.

19 (11)(a) * * *

20 (b) "Expenditure" shall also include:

21 * * *

22 (ii) Expenditures in-kind which have an attributable monetary value in excess
 23 of ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars, ~~made for any of the purposes stated in this Paragraph~~
 24 **to a committee**. Expenditures in-kind shall include without limitation: the donation
 25 by any person, ~~candidate, or committee~~ of the services of paid employees, the value
 26 of which services exceeds ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars, such value to be the amount
 27 paid for such services; the donation of, or the donation of the right to use, any item
 28 of tangible property when the same is used or consumed and not exchanged or
 29 converted to cash or the equivalent of cash and when the ~~donating candidate, the~~

1 ~~chairman of the donating committee, or the donating person~~ required to file reports
 2 under this Chapter, ~~and the campaign treasurer of such donor, if any,~~ determines that
 3 its value or the use value, when only the right to use is given, exceeds **fifty two**
 4 **hundred** dollars and such determination shall be prima facie evidence of the
 5 correctness of the valuation of the item or the use value when applicable. In addition,
 6 successive donations made to the same ~~person,~~ **candidate or committee in** which
 7 donations individually are valued below ~~fifty two hundred~~ **two hundred** dollars ~~but~~ which
 8 together exceed such amount, shall be deemed to be in-kind expenditures and shall
 9 be aggregated for purposes of the requirements of this Chapter.

10 * * *

11 (d) "Expenditure" shall not include:

12 (i) Personal services provided voluntarily by any person without
 13 compensation or by any person who is employed **by a candidate** for purposes other
 14 than solely campaign purposes by the reporting candidate, by a partnership of which
 15 ~~he~~ **the candidate** is a member, or by a corporation of which ~~he~~ **the candidate** owns
 16 a majority of the stock.

17 * * *

18 **(vi) Any communications over the internet, except for disbursements for**
 19 **express advocacy communications placed or promoted for a fee on another**
 20 **person's website, digital device, application, or advertising platform. A**
 21 **communication is promoted for a fee where a payment is made to a website,**
 22 **digital device, application, or advertising platform in order to increase the**
 23 **circulation, prominence, or availability of the communication on that website,**
 24 **digital device, application, or advertising platform.**

25 * * *

26 (21) "Participation" or "participating" in an election means the following:

27 * * *

28 (b) With regard to a ~~political~~ committee, that the committee:

29 * * *

1 (d) With regard to a person who ~~solicits or receives any contribution or~~
 2 makes any expenditure in support of or in opposition to a proposition or question
 3 submitted to the voters, that said person solicited or received a contribution or made
 4 an expenditure of two hundred fifty dollars or more.

* * *

6 §1491.5. Maintenance of records; valuation of in-kind contributions and
 7 expenditures

* * *

9 B.(1) * * *

10 (2) Payments made to purchase raffle tickets or paraphernalia, other than
 11 expenditures made by a committee for its own paraphernalia, and payments for
 12 tickets to testimonials and similar fundraising events are contributions, and records
 13 thereof shall be maintained, provided that:

14 (a) In the case of any single transaction involving the sale of raffle tickets or
 15 paraphernalia which is for an amount not in excess of ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars and
 16 the proceeds of which are received and deposited by a political committee, no record
 17 need be kept by the treasurer for such recipient committee, except the total amount
 18 received and deposited from such sale and the fact that such amount was received
 19 from such sale.

* * *

21 §1491.6. Reports required; reporting times and periods

* * *

23 D.(1) If the final report of a committee for an election, as required by
 24 Paragraph (B)(5), (6), or (7) of this Section, or the most recent monthly report of
 25 such committee pursuant to Subsection I of this Section shows a deficit or a surplus,
 26 the chairman and treasurer of the committee, if any, shall file supplemental reports
 27 with the supervisory committee of all information required in R.S. 18:1491.7. Such
 28 reports shall be filed annually no later than ~~February twenty-eighth~~ **March fifteenth**
 29 and shall be complete through the preceding December thirty-first. Such a

1 supplemental report shall be filed each year until a report has been filed which shows
2 no deficit and until any surplus campaign funds have been disposed of in accordance
3 with R.S. 18:1505.2(I). The report on surplus funds shall disclose the disbursement
4 of such funds in the same manner as expenditures are reported.

5 * * *

6 (3)(a) A report need not be filed under this Subsection if the committee is
7 dissolved and shows a deficit of less than five thousand dollars. However, if the
8 committee is dissolved and its deficit is equal to or greater than five thousand dollars,
9 the committee shall file supplemental reports with the supervisory committee of all
10 information required in R.S. 18:1491.7. Such report shall be filed annually no later
11 than ~~February twenty-eighth~~ **March fifteenth** and shall be complete through the
12 preceding December thirty-first. Such report shall be filed each year for five years
13 or until a report has been filed which shows no deficit or surplus.

14 (b) However, if after five years a committee with a deficit receives any
15 contribution or if any repayment occurs on an outstanding debt or loan, such
16 committee shall file a supplemental report by the following ~~February twenty-eighth~~
17 **March fifteenth** which shall be complete through the preceding December
18 thirty-first.

19 * * *

20 E. A report shall be filed for each committee of all information required in
21 R.S. 18:1491.7 no later than ~~February twenty-eighth~~ **March fifteenth** of each year
22 which shall be complete as of the preceding December thirty-first. The annual report
23 required by this Subsection shall not be required:

24 (1) If under another provision of this Section, the committee has filed another
25 report of the information required by R.S. 18:1491.7 at any time after the preceding
26 December tenth and prior to the ~~February fifteenth~~ **March fifteenth** due date, or

27 * * *

28 J. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to reports filed by a
29 leadership committee **or a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.**

* * *

§1491.7. Reports; contents

* * *

B. Each report required to be in conformity with this Section shall contain the following information:

* * *

(4) Contributions received during the reporting period for which the report is being completed shall be reported, and the same shall be reported irrespective of the amount thereof except as otherwise provided, as follows:

(a) The full name and address of each person who has made one or more contributions, except contributions in the form of a payroll deduction or dues check-off system, to and which have been received and accepted by the committee during the reporting period, **whose contribution or contributions have an aggregate amount or value in excess of two hundred dollars within the calendar year**; the aggregate amount of such contributions, except in-kind contributions, from each person, and the date and amount of each such contribution; and a brief description of each in-kind contribution from each person, the valuation thereof made by the chairman and the treasurer, and the date of the in-kind contribution.

* * *

(5)(a) The gross proceeds received and accepted by the committee during the reporting period from the sale of paraphernalia. Purchases of paraphernalia from the committee which are made by the same person and are of such amount as to be reportable, either singly or in the aggregate, as provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, shall be so reported; however, single transactions to purchase paraphernalia which are not in excess of ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars must be reported only in the report of gross proceeds and shall not be required to be reported as provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(b) The gross proceeds received and accepted by the committee during the reporting period from the sale of raffle tickets. Purchases of raffle tickets that are

1 and shall be complete through the preceding December thirty-first. Such a
 2 supplemental report shall be filed each year until a report has been filed which shows
 3 no deficit and until any surplus campaign funds have been disposed of in accordance
 4 with R.S. 18:1505.2(I). The report on surplus funds shall disclose the disbursement
 5 of such funds in the same manner as expenditures are reported.

6 * * *

7 (3)(a) A report need not be filed under this Subsection if the candidate is not
 8 an elected public official and shows either a deficit or a surplus of less than five
 9 thousand dollars. However, if the candidate is not an elected public official and his
 10 deficit or surplus is equal to or greater than five thousand dollars, the candidate shall
 11 file supplemental reports with the supervisory committee of all information required
 12 in R.S. 18:1495.5. Such report shall be filed annually no later than ~~February twenty-~~
 13 ~~eighth~~ **March fifteenth** and shall be complete through the preceding December
 14 thirty-first. Such report shall be filed each year for five years or until a report has
 15 been filed which shows no deficit or surplus.

16 (b) However, if after five years a candidate with a deficit receives any
 17 contribution or if any repayment occurs on an outstanding debt or loan, such
 18 candidate shall file a supplemental report by the following ~~February fifteenth~~ **March**
 19 **fifteenth** which shall be complete through the preceding December thirty-first.

20 * * *

21 E. A report shall be filed for each candidate, as defined by R.S. 18:1483(3),
 22 of all information required in R.S. 18:1495.5 no later than ~~February fifteenth~~ **March**
 23 **fifteenth** of each year which shall be complete as of the preceding December thirty-
 24 first. The annual report required by this Subsection shall not be required:

25 (1) If under another provision of this Section the candidate has filed another
 26 report of the information required by R.S. 18:1495.5 at any time after the preceding
 27 December tenth and prior to ~~February fifteenth~~ **March fifteenth** due date, or

28 * * *

29 §1495.5. Reports; contents

1 * * *

2 B. Each report required to be in conformity with this Section shall contain the
3 following information:

4 * * *

5 (5)(a) The gross proceeds received and accepted by the candidate during the
6 reporting period from the sale of paraphernalia. Purchases of such campaign
7 paraphernalia which are made by the same person and which are of such amount as
8 to be reportable, either singly or in the aggregate, as required in Paragraph (4) of this
9 Subsection, shall be so reported; however, single transactions to purchase campaign
10 items or materials which are not in excess of ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars must be
11 reported only in the report of gross proceeds and shall not be required to be reported
12 as provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

13 (b) The gross proceeds received and accepted by the candidate during the
14 reporting period from the sale of raffle tickets. Purchases of raffle tickets that are
15 made by the same person and are of such amount as to be reportable, either singly
16 or in the aggregate, as provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, shall be so
17 reported; however, single transactions to purchase raffle tickets which are not in
18 excess of ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars must be reported only in the report of gross
19 proceeds and shall not be required to be reported as provided in Paragraph (4) of this
20 Subsection.

21 * * *

22 §1501.3. Gubernatorial transition and inauguration; contribution limits; reports

23 * * *

24 C. On or before the sixtieth day after the gubernatorial inauguration and by
25 ~~February twenty-eighth~~ **March fifteenth** annually thereafter until all contributions
26 have been expended or used, the governor shall file an all-inclusive report with the
27 supervisory committee. Each report shall be complete through January thirty-first.
28 Each report shall state:

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§1505.2. Contributions; expenditures; certain prohibitions and limitations

* * *

B.(1) * * *

(2) Any single transaction involving the sale of paraphernalia, in which the transaction is ~~for~~ not in excess of ~~fifty~~ **two hundred** dollars and ~~in which transaction~~ the purchaser is not known, shall not be deemed to constitute an anonymous contribution under the provisions of this Subsection.

* * *

H.(1)(a) * * *

* * *

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the contribution limit for contributions made to an unsuccessful major office candidate, or the principal campaign committee and any subsidiary committee of such unsuccessful candidate, who does not participate in the general election, or a party primary candidate who does not participate in either the second party primary, primary, or general election and for the time period for which such candidate has a deficit for expenditures made through the day of the primary election or closed party primary, shall be twenty-**four** thousand dollars.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the following contribution limits are established for contributions by political committees or leadership committees supporting or opposing a candidate for the following offices:

* * *

(c) If the contribution is made to a ~~leadership committee~~, political committee; ~~or independent expenditure-only committee~~ which is supporting or opposing candidates for different offices, the highest applicable limit shall apply.

* * *

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the contributions limit for contributions by

1 of this Paragraph, contributions received by a candidate or a candidate's principal
2 campaign committee, or any subsidiary committee thereof, may also be expended for
3 any lawful purpose related to any of the following:

4 * * *

5 (cc) Contributions, **directly or by joint fundraising agreement**, to another
6 candidate's principal campaign committee, to a political committee, ~~or~~ to a leadership
7 committee, **to an independent-expenditure-only committee, to a recognized**
8 **political party of a parish executive committee, or to a recognized party**
9 **legislative delegation**.

10 * * *

11 (c)(i) * * *

12 (iii) For purposes of this Subparagraph, use of funds by a leadership
13 committee to replace, **repair, or clean** articles lost, stolen, **soiled**, or damaged in
14 connection with the operations of the leadership committee or the holding of public
15 office or party position by the public officer shall not be considered personal use.

16 * * *

17 (2)(a) The following expenditures shall not be considered to be personal use
18 by the candidate or his principal campaign committee or a subsidiary committee
19 thereof, or by an elected official or his leadership committee:

20 (i) Expenses related to the attendance at political or professional events by
21 the candidate and any accompanying spouse and children, including:

22 * * *

23 (dd) Conventions and conferences of issue or social advocacy groups ~~or~~
24 **related educational programs**.

25 (ii) Reasonable costs of security measures for a candidate, elected official,
26 member of their family, or campaign employees, including, but not limited to:

27 * * *

28 (cc) Security personnel, ~~and services,~~ **and related transportation** that are
29 bona fide, legitimate, and professional.

1 (dd) Cybersecurity software, devices, and services.

2 * * *

3 (v) Reasonable costs to replace **or repair** articles lost, stolen, or damaged in
4 connection with the campaign **or to clean articles when required due to their use**
5 **in connection with the campaign or holding public office.**

6 * * *

7 (7) Contributions made in excess of the limits provided in this Section to a
8 candidate, principal campaign committee, political committee, or leadership
9 committee shall be returned by the candidate or committee to the contributor by
10 check drawn on the campaign account. If the check is not negotiated within twelve
11 months of the date of the check, the excess amount shall be presumed abandoned and
12 shall be paid, transferred, or caused to be paid or transferred in accordance with the
13 Uniform Unclaimed Property Act of 1997 by the candidate or committee not later
14 than ~~February twenty-eighth~~ **March fifteenth** of the calendar year after the calendar
15 year in which the excess amount was presumed abandoned.

16 * * *

17 §1505.2.1. Designation and attribution of contributions

18 A.(1) A candidate may receive contributions designated in writing for use in
19 connection with any election in a single election cycle, whether a party primary
20 election, **a second party primary election**, primary election, or general election.
21 The candidate shall use an acceptable accounting method to distinguish between
22 contributions attributed to each particular election.

23 * * *

24 G.(1) * * *

25 (2) A candidate may ~~request that~~ **designate** all or part of a contribution
26 designated for a certain election be redesignated for a different election if the
27 contribution, either on its face or when aggregated with other contributions from the
28 same contributor for the same election, exceeds the contributions limitation provided
29 in R.S. 18:1505.2(H).

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)]

DIGEST

SB 495 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Kleinpeter

Present law provides for reporting of receipts and expenditures involving campaign finance.

Proposed law defines "contribution" for purposes of campaign finance, to include that made to a parish executive committee or a recognized party legislative delegation which receives contributions in an aggregate amount in excess of \$5,000 within any calendar year or any amount received by a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.

Proposed law provides a Section wide exception for media entities that broadcast paid political announcements or advertisements, in which the broadcaster has had no input or control over the announcement or advertisement. Proposed law further provides a definition for what qualifies as a media entity under the provision.

Proposed law provides that "expenditure" includes any communications over the internet, except for disbursements for express advocacy communications placed or promoted for a fee on another person's website, digital device, application, or advertising platform. Provides that a communication is promoted for a fee where a payment is made to a website, digital device, application, or advertising platform in order to increase the circulation, prominence, or availability of the communication on that website, digital device, application, or advertising platform.

Present law requires that reports of records involving payments to purchase raffle tickets or paraphernalia, other than expenditures made by a committee for its own paraphernalia, and payments for tickets to testimonials and similar fundraising events are contributions maintained, provided that no report is required as to any single transaction involving the sale of raffle tickets or paraphernalia which is for an amount not in excess of \$50 and the proceeds of which are received and deposited by a political committee, no record need be kept by the treasurer for the recipient committee, except the total amount received and deposited from the sale and the fact that the amount was received from the sale.

Proposed law retains these provisions but increases the \$50 amount to \$200.

Proposed law provides that as to certain reports filed with the supervisory committee the street number and street name of individual contributors is not to be made publicly available in any manner, including but not limited to disclosure on any governmental websites or in response to public records requests under the Public Records Law.

Proposed law changes certain reporting dates from February 15th to March 15th.

Present law provides that certain report requirements not apply to those filed by a leadership committee.

Proposed law retains present law but includes reports filed by a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.

Proposed law provides that the governor or gubernatorial transition and inauguration have not duty to file a statement of organization, a statement of dissolution, or to maintain certain records to file certain reports listed in proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 18:1463(C) and (E), 1483(7)(a)(iv), (7)(b)(i), (10), (11)(b)(ii), (11)(d)(i), R.S. 18:1583(21)(b) and (d)(intro para), 1491.5(B)(2)(a), 1491.6(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), the introductory paragraph of R.S. 18:1491.6(E), (E)(1), (J), 1491.7(B)(4)(a), (B)(5), 1495.3(B)(2)(a), 1495.4(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), R.S. 18:1495.4(E)(intro para), (E)(1), 1495.5(B)(5), 1501.3(C), 1505.2(B)(2), (H)(1)(c), (H)(2)(c) and (e), 1505.2(H)(3)(c), R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(a)(intro para), 1505.2(I)(1)(b)(i)(cc), (I)(1)(c)(iii), (I)(2)(a)(i)(dd), (I)(2)(a)(ii)(cc), (I)(2)(a)(v), (I)(7), 1505.2.1(A)(1) and (G)(2); adds R.S. 18:1463(H) and 1483(11)(d)(vi))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Provides an ethics exception involving political materials that covers media entities that broadcasts a paid political announcement or advertisement, in which the broadcaster has had no input or control over the announcement or advertisement.
2. Removed changes to definitions for candidate, committee, contribution, and coordinated expenditures.
3. Increases certain contribution limits from \$50 to \$200 throughout instrument.
4. Removed changes to definition of independent expenditure-only committee, independent expenditure, leadership committee, loan, primary purpose, electioneering communication, and political committee.
5. Moved reporting deadlines from February 28th to March 15th throughout instrument.
6. Removed changes involving small campaigns.
7. Changed gubernatorial transition deadlines to March 15th.
8. Changes contribution limits for contributions made to an unsuccessful major office candidate or the principal campaign committee from \$25,000 to \$24,000.
9. Provides for a judgment ordering new elections.
10. Provides relative to contributions limits for a person.
11. Removed changes to subsection pertaining to how a contribution may be redesignated.