
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 Reengrossed 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 28th 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)(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(7)(a)(vi) and (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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Technical.
2. Removed deletion of existing law related to contributions that includes any person for the purpose of funding an expenditure to support or oppose a proposition or question submitted to the voters.