

## SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 495

2026 Regular Session

Kleinpeter

**KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

ELECTION CODE. Provides for campaign finance disclosures. (1/1/27)

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL**

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Restores the present law definition of "electioneering communication" for purposes of disclosures on political ads.
3. Restores present law provisions regarding ads distributed on behalf of a candidate and paid for by a 3rd party.
4. Adds the proposed law phrase "directly or through a joint fundraising agreement" into the definition of "contribution".
5. Increases contribution limits from \$50 to \$200.
6. Adds a listing of what constitutes "other cash receipts" that must be reported by candidates and committees.
7. Provides that a joint fundraising agreement may designate any committee, not just a PAC, to serve a "joint fundraising representative".
8. Removes a reference to contributions made to a "recognized party legislative delegation".
9. Provides that surplus campaign funds can be transferred to a segregated fund for a future election without counting against the donor's contribution limit for the future election.
10. Provides penalty amounts for a governor who fails to file or accurately file reports required for a gubernatorial transition or inauguration.
11. Provides an effective date of Jan 1, 2027.

**DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

## DIGEST

SB 495 Reengrossed

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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 updated list of what constitutes "other cash receipts" that must be reported by candidates and committees.

Proposed law provides that a joint fundraising agreement may designate any committee, to serve in the capacity as a "joint fundraising representative".

Proposed law provides that surplus campaign funds may be transferred to a segregated fund for use in a future election without those funds counting against the donor's contribution limit for the future election.

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 penalty for a governor who fails to file or accurately file reports required for a gubernatorial transition or inauguration committee.

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 January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 18:1463(C), 1483(7)(b)(i), (10), (11)(b)(ii), (11)(d)(i), R.S. 18:1483(21)(b) and (d)(intro para), 1491.5(B)(2)(a), 1491.6(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), R.S. 18:1491.6(E)(intro para), (E)(1), (J), 1491.7(B)(4)(a), and (b),(5), and (8), 1491.9(C)(2),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)and(7), 1501.3(c)(intro para),1505.2(B)(2), (H)(1)(c),(2)(e), and (3)(a)(iii), (b), and (c),1505.2(H)(3)(c), 1505.2(I)(1)(b)(i)(cc) and (iii) and (c)(iii), (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), 1505.4(A)(2)(a)(i), and 1505.5(B)(1); adds R.S. 18:1463(H) and 1483(7)(a)(vi) and (11)(d)(vi) and to repeal R.S. 18:1491.7(B)(22))