

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 773 (SB 495)

2026 Regular Session

Kleinpeter

Existing law provides relative to elections and the receipt and expenditures of monies under the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Existing law requires that disbursements to finance any electioneering communication include a statement as to who is paying for the communication.

New law requires that in any visual or oral communication or advertisement, the statement be clearly understandable as well as audible or visible for not less than four seconds. Requires that in digital announcements or advertisements, the name of the third-party entity is to appear in text sized at least as large as the smallest text in the digital material or in a heading or similar section of text displayed above or within the digital material that is visually distinct from the remainder of the digital material's text and include a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the name of the third-party entity.

New law provides that the prohibitions involving political material do not apply to a media entity that broadcasts a paid political announcement or advertisement, in which the broadcaster has had no input in or control over the announcement or advertisement. Defines "media entity" to include a radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, cable or satellite television company, or other video service provider, streaming video provider, newspaper company, periodical company, billboard company, advertisement agency, or media platform responsible for the production or publication of any advertisement, voice, data, or other communications, information services, or internet access provider, or bona fide news or public interest website operator.

Existing law provides that "contribution" includes a gift, conveyance payment or deposit of money or anything of value or forgiveness of a loan or debt made under listed circumstances. New law retains these provisions but includes those made directly or through a joint fund-raising agreement and includes contributions made by a recognized political party that receives contributions in an aggregate amount of \$1,000 within any calendar year.

Existing law provides that "contribution" does not include certain in-kind contributions in excess of \$50. New law increases this amount to \$200.

Existing law provides that "expenditures" includes in-kind expenditures having and attributable monetary value in excess of \$50. New law increases this amount to \$200.

New law provides that "expenditure" does not include any communication over the internet, except 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 if 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.

Existing 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 fund-raising 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. New law retains existing law but increases the \$50 amount to \$200.

New law changes certain reporting dates from February 28th to March 15th.

New law increases certain reporting thresholds from \$50 to \$200.

New law authorizes a joint fund-raising agreement to designate a committee to serve in as a "joint fund-raising representative".

Existing law provides for the use of excess campaign funds. New law changes this to "surplus" campaign funds and includes those funds not expended during a second party primary. Provides that surplus campaign funds may be transferred to a segregated fund and not be considered as a contribution from the contributor for calculation of the amount contributed by the contributor to the candidate for the candidates next election campaign. Requires that limits on contributions calculated for each contributor remain separately applicable for each separate election.

New law allows leadership committee funds to be used to repair or clean articles lost or soiled.

New law extends civil penalties for failure of the governor to file a gubernatorial transition or inauguration report.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 18:1463(C), 1483(7)(a)(intro para), 1483(7)(b)(i), (10), (11)(b)(ii), (11)(d)(i), 1483(21)(b)(intro para) and (d), 1491.5(B)(2)(a), 1491.6(D)(1), (D)(3)(a) and (b), 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), 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(I)(1)(b)(i)(cc) and (iii) and (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 repeals R.S. 18:1491.7(B)(22))