
DIGEST

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HB 590 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Spell

Abstract: Prohibits the use of foreign funds to conduct elections or election campaigns, subject to criminal penalties.

Proposed law prohibits the use of funds, goods, or services donated by a foreign government or nongovernmental source to conduct elections.

Proposed law prohibits the use of funds, goods, or services donated by a foreign government, foreign entity, or noncitizen to promote a ballot proposition or question, candidate, or political party, directly or indirectly.

Proposed law provides that any foreign government, foreign entity, noncitizen, or nongovernmental source that violates proposed law shall be fined not more than twice the amount of the donation, imprisoned for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or both.

Proposed law provides that any person that accepts a donation in violation of proposed law and that has actual knowledge that the donation violates proposed law shall return the donation.

Proposed law defines "directly or indirectly" and "foreign entity".

(Adds R.S. 18:1461.9)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Impose criminal penalties on the foreign government, foreign entity, noncitizen, or nongovernmental source that makes a prohibited donation, rather than the recipient of the donation.
2. Require the person that receives a donation in violation of proposed law to return the donation if the person has actual knowledge that the donation violates proposed law.