

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 351

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Provides for penalties for attesting to false information in a notice of candidacy

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:1401(G), relative to objections to candidacy; to provide for penalties for
3 attesting to false information in a notice of candidacy; to provide for an effective
4 date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1401(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §1401. Objections to candidacy; contests of elections; contests of certification of
8 recall petition; parties authorized to institute actions; penalties

9 * * *

10 G. Upon a determination that a candidate knowingly attested to false
11 information in a notice of candidacy, the court shall assess court costs and attorney
12 fees, and the court may impose any other sanctions the court deems appropriate
13 against the candidate.

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
18 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 351 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides penalties for when a candidate attests to false information in a notice of candidacy.

Present law provides that a qualified elector may bring an action objecting to candidacy under certain circumstances. Further provides for other contests and challenges.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a candidate who attests to false information in a notice of candidacy shall have court costs and attorney fees assessed against them. Further provides that the court may impose further sanctions if deemed appropriate.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 18:1401(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Revise proposed law to provide that upon a determination that a candidate knowingly attested to false information in a notice of candidacy the court shall assess court costs and attorney fees and that the court may impose against the candidate any other sanction that the court deems appropriate.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide for an effective date.