

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 365

BY REPRESENTATIVE STUART BISHOP

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Requires candidates for certain offices to receive ethics education prior to qualifying

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:461.1, relative to candidates for certain office; to require certain ethics
3 education and training for certain candidates; to provide relative to certifying such
4 training; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:461.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §461.1. Ethics education requirement; certification for ethics education

8 A. Any person who becomes a candidate for statewide elective office or the
9 office of state representative or state senator shall be required to obtain at least one
10 hour of ethics education and training in the same manner as required of public
11 servants by R.S. 42:1170.

12 B. Each person who has qualified for a statewide elective office or the office
13 of state representative or state senator shall certify that he has obtained at least one
14 hour of ethics education and training as required by this Section by executing the
15 certification designed pursuant to Subsection C of this Section. The certification
16 shall be filed with the Board of Ethics no later than the deadline for filing a financial
17 disclosure statement filed pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.7.

18 C. The certification required by this Section shall be designed by the Board
19 of Ethics and shall at a minimum include the assertion that all of the statements
20 contained in it are true and correct.

1 D. The certification form and a notice to the candidate regarding the
 2 requirements and the availability of education and training shall be included in the
 3 informational packets provided for in R.S. 18:463(D).

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2013.

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)]

Stuart Bishop

HB No. 365

Abstract: Requires each candidate for statewide office and for the state legislature to certify that he has obtained at least one hour of ethics education and training and to file a certification of such with the Board of Ethics no later than the deadline for filing the personal financial disclosure statement.

Present law provides relative to certain requirements to become a candidate.

Proposed law additionally requires each person who has qualified for a statewide elective office or the office of state representative or state senator to certify that he has obtained at least one hour of ethics education and training in the same manner as required of public servants by present law (ethics code-R.S. 42:1170) by executing a certification designed by the Board of Ethics. Proposed law requires the certification to, at a minimum, include an assertion that all of the statements contained in it are true and correct. Requires the certification to be filed with the Board of Ethics no later than the deadline for filing a financial disclosure statement filed pursuant to the present law (Campaign Finance Disclosure Act-R.S. 18:1495.7).

Proposed law further provides that the certification form and a notice to the candidate regarding the requirements and the availability of education and training shall be included in the informational packets for candidates provided for in present law (R.S. 18:463(D)).

Effective Jan. 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 18:461.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Changes the deadline to file the certification from at the same time as filing the notice of candidacy to no later than the deadline for filing the personal financial disclosure statement required by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.
2. Removes provision that the certification be designed in conjunction with the secretary of state.
3. Requires the certification form and a notice to the candidate regarding the ethics education requirement and availability of the education to be included in the informational packets for candidates.