2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 202

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOS: Requires political committees to include specified information on the statement of organization

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1491.1(B)(5) and to enact R.S. 18:1491.1(F), relative to campaign finance disclosure; to provide relative to the registration of political committees; to require political committees to include specified information on the statement of organization; to provide for the duties of the supervisory committee relative thereto; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1491.1(B)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:1491.1(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1491.1. Registration of political committees

* * *

B. The statement of organization shall include:

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(5)<u>(a)</u> A statement, if applicable, that the committee is a principal campaign committee and the candidate by whom it is designated as a principal campaign committee, if any, or a statement if applicable, that the committee is a subsidiary committee and the committee or candidate by whom it is designated as a subsidiary committee.

<u>(b) A statement, if the committee is organized to support a single candidate and if applicable, that the committee is not the principal or subsidiary committee of</u>

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the candidate and a certification by the committee that the committee is not working and will not work in coordination, consultation, or cooperation with the candidate.

(c) A statement, if applicable, that the committee is organized solely to make independent expenditures and a certification by the committee that the committee is not and will not make contributions, whether direct, in-kind, or through coordinated communications, to any candidate or other political committee.

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F. If the supervisory committee receives a statement pursuant to Subparagraph (B)(5)(b) of this Section, the supervisory committee shall immediately notify the affected candidate of his obligations pursuant to R.S. 18:1491.3(C).

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2023.

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)]

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Abstract: Requires political committees to indicate and certify specified information regarding independent expenditures and coordination with candidates and other political committees if applicable and requires the supervisory committee to notify a candidate if a political committee not affiliated with that candidate is organized to only support that candidate.

Present law (R.S. 18:1491.1) requires each political committee which knows or anticipates that it will receive contributions or loans, make expenditures or loans, or make a transfer of funds to or receive a transfer of funds from another committee during a calendar year in the aggregate amount exceeding $500 to file a statement of organization with the supervisory committee annually between Jan. 1st and Jan. 31st, or if organized after Jan. 31st, no later than the 10th day after organization. Present law further requires that any change in information previously submitted in the annual statement of organization shall be reported to the supervisory committee within 10 days following the change.

Present law specifies the content of the statement of organization including a statement, if applicable, that the committee is a principal campaign committee and the candidate by whom it is designated as a principal campaign committee, if any, or a statement if applicable, that the committee is a subsidiary committee and the committee or candidate by whom it is designated as a subsidiary committee.

Proposed law adds to the statement of organization content: (a) a statement, if the committee is organized to support a single candidate and if applicable, that the committee is not the principal or subsidiary committee of the candidate and a certification by the committee that the committee is not working and will not work in coordination, consultation, or cooperation with the candidate and (b) a statement, if applicable, that the committee is organized solely to make independent expenditures and a certification by the committee that the committee

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is not and will not make contributions, whether direct, in-kind, or through coordinated communications, to any candidate or other political committee.

Present law (R.S. 18:1491.3(C)) provides that a political committee organized to support a single candidate shall be a subsidiary committee of the candidate or of the candidate's principal campaign committee unless the candidate files a statement in writing with the supervisory committee that the committee is not a subsidiary committee of the candidate within 10 days of the committee's organization.

Proposed law requires the supervisory committee to immediately notify the affected candidate of his obligations pursuant to present law if it receives a statement of organization from a committee organized to support that single candidate that asserts the committee is not a principal or subsidiary committee of that candidate.

Effective Jan. 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 18:1491.1(B)(5); Adds R.S. 18:1491.1(F))

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