2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 679

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

ETHICS: Provides relative to certain statements required to be filed by elected officials

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 42:1111(E)(2)(d), relative to ethics; to provide relative to certain required statements regarding assistance in connection with certain transactions; to provide for the time period for certain actions by the Board of Ethics regarding such statements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 42:1111(E)(2)(d) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1111. Payment from nonpublic sources

* * *

E. Payments for rendering assistance to certain persons.

* * *

(2)

* * *

(d) The board shall review all statements filed in accordance with this Paragraph. If the board determines that a statement is deficient or may suggest a possible violation of this Part, it shall, ~~within ten days of~~ <u>no later than the second regularly scheduled meeting of the board following</u> the receipt of such statement, notify the elected official filing the statement of its findings. Such notification shall be deemed confidential and privileged and shall be made public only in connection

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with a public hearing by the board for an alleged violation of this Part where such would be relevant to the alleged violation for which the elected official is being investigated.

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 679 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Duplessis

Abstract: Extends the time the Board of Ethics has to notify an elected official regarding deficiencies in disclosure statements regarding certain transactions from 10 days after receipt of the statement to no later than the second regularly scheduled meeting of the board following receipt of the statement.

Present law (R.S. 42:1111(E)(2)) prohibits an elected official of a governmental entity from receiving or agreeing to receive any thing of economic value for assisting a person in a transaction or in an appearance in connection with a transaction with the governmental entity or its officials or agencies, unless he files a written statement with the Bd. of Ethics prior to or within 10 days after initial assistance is rendered, including a certification that the information is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief. Present law excludes ministerial transactions from this requirement.

Present law provides that the contents of the statement shall be prescribed by the board, provides that the statement shall be a public record, and requires the board to review all the statements, and if it determines a statement to be deficient or suggests a violation of the ethics code, the board shall notify the official of its findings within 10 days of the receipt of the statement. Provides that the notification is confidential and privileged and made public only in connection with a public hearing for a relevant violation of the code.

Proposed law changes the time period the board has to notify the official from within 10 days of receipt to no later than the second regularly scheduled meeting of the board following receipt and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 42:1111(E)(2)(d))

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