

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY SENATOR AMEDEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to the appropriate use of campaign funds and to the administration and enforcement of laws within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics.

WHEREAS, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA) requires contributions received by an elected official to be expended for any lawful purpose; and

WHEREAS, the CFDA prohibits an elected official from using his campaign funds for expenditures that are not related to the holding of public office; and

WHEREAS, the CFDA prohibits the use of campaign funds for any personal use unrelated to the candidate's campaign or his holding of public office; and

WHEREAS, the CFDA provides that excess funds may be used for a future campaign; returned to contributors on a pro rata basis; given as charitable contributions; or in support of or in opposition to a proposition, political party, or candidate; and

WHEREAS, in years past, the Board of Ethics has issued numerous opinions regarding the proper use or misuse of an elected official's campaign funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, there were systemic changes made to the enforcement of the laws within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, it is important to evaluate the efficacy of those changes to ensure that the process is working as effectively and efficiently as possible with appropriate due process; and

WHEREAS, it is important to review the laws within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to ensure that there are no legal impediments to proper enforcement of those laws and inappropriate barriers to public service; and

WHEREAS, it is the legislature's intention to ensure the accurate and consistent application of the CFDA and to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the laws within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby requests the members of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to the appropriate use of campaign funds and to the administration and enforcement of laws within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint legislative committee shall submit recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than February 1, 2014.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES