Regular Session, 2012

#### HOUSE BILL NO. 950

#### BY REPRESENTATIVE TIM BURNS

#### 1 AN ACT 2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:1132(A), (B)(introductory paragraph), (C), and (D), 3 1134(A)(1) and (K), 1135, 1141(A), (B)(1)(a), (C)(1), (2), and (3)(c) and (d), and 4 1151 through 1157, to enact R.S. 42:1141(B)(3) and (C)(3)(e) and (f) and 1141.2 5 through 1141.6, and to repeal R.S. 42:1141(C)(4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), (D), (E), and (F), 1141.1, and 1157.2, relative to enforcement of the laws under the jurisdiction of 6 7 the Board of Ethics; to clarify the powers and duties of the Board of Ethics and the 8 Ethics Adjudicatory Board relative to such enforcement; to provide relative to certain 9 time limitations; and to provide for related matters. 10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 11 Section 1. R.S. 42:1132(A), (B)(introductory paragraph), (C), and (D), 1134(A)(1) 12 and (K), 1135, 1141(A), (B)(1)(a), (C)(1), (2), and (3)(c) and (d), and 1151 through 1157 are 13 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 42:1141(B)(3) and (C)(3)(e) and (f) and 1141.2 14 through 1141.6 are hereby enacted to read as follows: 15 §1132. Board of Ethics 16 A. Board of Ethics established. There is hereby established in the 17 Department of State Civil Service the Board of Ethics to be domiciled in the city of 18 Baton Rouge. 19 B. Membership; terms; vacancies; qualifications. (1) The board Board of 20 Ethics shall consist of eleven members to be selected as follows: 21 22 C. Jurisdiction. The board Board of Ethics shall administer and enforce the 23 provisions of this Chapter and the rules, regulations, and orders issued hereunder 24 with respect to public employees and elected officials, including final decisions of

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1	the Ethics Adjudicatory Board. In addition, the board Board of Ethics, functioning
2	as the SupervisoryCommittee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, shall administer and
3	enforce the provisions of Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
4	of 1950, and the rules, regulations, and orders issued thereunder. In addition, the
5	board Board of Ethics shall administer the provisions of Part IV of Chapter 2 of Title
6	18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, relative to elections integrity.
7	D. Additional Jurisdiction. The board Board of Ethics shall administer and
8	enforce the provisions of R.S. 27:63, 96, 226, 261, and 316, and 373, Part III of
9	Chapter 1 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Part IV of Chapter
10	1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Chapter 46 of Title 33 of the
11	Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and R.S. 47:9072.
12	* * *
13	§1134. Powers, duties, and responsibilities of the board
14	A.(1) The board Board of Ethics may adopt, amend, repeal, and enforce rules
15	and regulations in the manner provided by the Administrative Procedure Act to carry
16	out the provisions and purposes of this Chapter and any other law within its
17	jurisdiction.
18	* * *
19	K. The board shall do and perform such other acts, duties, and functions as
20	are provided elsewhere in this Chapter as it shall deem appropriate in connection
21	with the provisions of this Chapter within its jurisdiction, except those duties and
22	functions of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.
23	* * *
24	§1135. Enforcement of regulation, decision, or order of the board Board of Ethics
25	Any The Board of Ethics shall have the right to enforce any valid regulation,
26	final decision, or final order of the board shall be enforceable Board of Ethics or the
27	Ethics Adjudicatory Board in any court of competent jurisdiction in this state by a
28	mandamus or injunction suit brought for that purpose. The district court for the
29	parish wherein the board Board of Ethics is domiciled shall have authority to convert

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1	a valid final decision or <u>final</u> order <del>of the board</del> into a court order, upon receipt from
2	the board Board of Ethics of a rule to show cause for that purpose.
3	§1141. Procedure; adjudicatory board Complaints and investigations
4	A. Panels. (1) The board Board of Ethics members shall may sit en banc and
5	or in panels in such order and at such times as the board directs.
6	(2) The board shall Board of Ethics may authorize the hearing and
7	determination of matters by separate panels, each consisting of not less than three
8	members. Such panels shall sit at the times and places to hear matters assigned as
9	the chairman directs. Such hearings shall be public except those provided for in
10	Subsection C of this Section. <u>All determinations of a panel shall be by a majority</u>
11	vote. However, if a panel consists of three members, all determinations of the panel
12	shall require a unanimous vote of the members of the panel. Each panel shall be
13	vested with specific subject matter jurisdiction. The board Board of Ethics may
14	determine by rule a procedure to rotate members among different subject matter
15	panels to encourage the participation of each member of the board in, and the
16	knowledge of each member of the board of, matters concerning the different
17	provisions of law under the jurisdiction of the board.
18	(3) Matters shall be heard and determined by the board or panel of not less
19	than three members, unless a hearing before the board en banc is ordered by a
20	majority of the members of the board. The presence of the three members of the
21	panel shall be required to conduct the business of the panel.
22	(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, the presence of nine
23	members shall be required to conduct the business of the board Board of Ethics
24	sitting en banc.
25	(5) (4) The board <u>Board of Ethics</u> shall promulgate procedural and
26	jurisdictional rules relative to the establishment of the several panels. The rules shall
27	specify procedures wherein the chairman may refer matters to the appropriate panel
28	with proper subject matter jurisdiction.
29	(6) (5) The board, Board of Ethics by a majority vote of its membership, may
30	review any opinion, decision, finding, or ruling of any panel.

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19

1 B. Complaints. (1)(a) The board Board of Ethics shall consider any signed 2 sworn complaint from any elector, hereinafter referred to as complainant, concerning 3 a violation of this Chapter which is within its jurisdiction or the regulations or orders 4 issued by the board Board of Ethics, or may, by a two-thirds majority vote of its 5 membership, consider any matter which it has reason to believe may be a violation 6 of this Chapter. Additionally, the board may consider any matter which it has reason 7 to believe may be a violation of any other provision of law within its jurisdiction as 8 provided in this Subsection or as may be otherwise provided by law. A certified 9 copy of the vote; a detailed explanation of the matter, including the specific factual 10 allegations upon which the board based its decision to investigate; and a copy of any 11 complaint received by the board, from which the name of the complainant has been 12 redacted, shall be sent by certified mail to the accused and the complainant within 13 ten days after the vote occurs or after receipt of a signed sworn complaint. The 14 chairman of the board shall Board of Ethics may assign each such a matter to the 15 appropriate panel for investigation, in which case the panel shall conduct a private 16 investigation to elicit evidence upon which the panel shall determine whether to 17 recommend to the board that a public hearing be conducted or that a violation has not 18 occurred.

20 (3) Any person who, with knowledge of its falsity, makes a false complaint
 21 shall be subject to the penalties set forth in R.S. 42:1153.

22 C. Investigation and hearing. (1) Upon receiving a sworn complaint or 23 voting to consider a matter as provided in Subsection B of this Section, a private 24 investigation shall be conducted to elicit evidence upon which the panel as provided 25 in this Section Board of Ethics shall determine whether to recommend to the board 26 that a public hearing should be conducted or that a violation has not occurred. The 27 accused and the complainant shall be given written notification of the 28 commencement of the investigation not less than ten days prior to the date set for the 29 commencement of the investigation. All determinations in this Subsection shall be 30 by a majority vote of the panel. However, in cases where the panel consists of three

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1	members, all determinations of such a panel shall require a unanimous vote of the
2	members of the panel.
3	(2) After the investigation has been completed, the board Board of Ethics
4	shall determine whether a public hearing should be conducted to receive evidence
5	and to determine whether any violation of any provision of law within its jurisdiction
6	has occurred. If a violation has not occurred, the defendant and the complainant
7	shall be notified within ten days of the ruling.
8	(3)
9	* * *
10	(c) If the board <u>Board of Ethics</u> does not issue charges within one year from
11	the date upon which a sworn complaint is received or, if no sworn complaint was
12	received, within one year from the date the board voted to consider the matter, the
13	matter shall be dismissed. The one-year period shall be prescriptive. The
14	prescriptive period may be suspended, interrupted, or renounced. The prescriptive
15	period shall be suspended by any of the following:
16	(i) The person who is the subject of the investigation or complaint files any
17	pleading or proceeding in a state or federal court or with the Ethics Adjudicatory
18	Board related to the matter under investigation that has the effect of delaying or
19	impeding the proceeding.
20	(ii) The person who is the subject of the investigation or complaint fails to
21	comply with a subpoena or other request from the Board of Ethics for information
22	related to or in connection with the investigation of the Board of Ethics.
23	(d) The person who is the subject of the investigation or complaint may
24	consent in writing to the suspension of the prescriptive period.
25	(e) Determinations concerning the prescriptive period provided for in
26	Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph shall be made by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.
27	(d) The board (f) The Board of Ethics shall consider offering a consent
28	opinion to each person who is the subject of an investigation.

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1	<u>§1141.2. Ethics Adjudicatory Board</u>
2	A. The director of the division of administrative law shall, at a public
3	meeting of the Board of Ethics in December of the year preceding the year in which
4	the terms are to begin, randomly select seven administrative law judges from among
5	those who meet the qualifications to comprise the Ethics Adjudicatory Board. The
6	last selected judge shall serve as the alternate. Members of the adjudicatory board
7	shall have not less than two years of experience as an administrative law judge or not
8	less than ten years experience in the practice of law.
9	B.(1) The members shall each serve a three-year term, which term shall
10	begin on January first. There shall be no limitation on the number of times a
11	qualified member may be selected to serve.
12	(2) A vacancy on either three-judge panel shall be filled by the alternate
13	judge.
14	(3) A vacancy on the Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall be filled for the
15	unexpired term at the next public meeting of the Board of Ethics and in the same
16	manner as for the original selection. The last selected judge shall serve as the
17	<u>alternate.</u>
18	C. Members of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall be subject to the same
19	financial disclosure requirements as are provided by law for members of the Board
20	of Ethics. Such members shall also be subject to the same limitations regarding
21	contracting as are applicable to the members of the Board of Ethics as provided by
22	<u>law.</u>
23	D. If an administrative law judge who is a member of the Ethics
24	Adjudicatory Board begins work on a matter prior to the end of his term, he shall not
25	be prohibited from completing work on the matter following the end of his term. He
26	shall be considered a member of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board until such work is
27	complete, and such status shall not affect the selection of members for the Ethics
28	Adjudicatory Board.

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1	E. Any member of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board who has a personal interest
2	in or who becomes the subject of a hearing pursuant to this Part shall recuse himself
3	from participation in such hearing.
4	<u>§1141.3. Location of hearings</u>
5	The Board of Ethics, a panel thereof, or the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may
6	conduct any hearing provided in this Chapter in the parish wherein the public servant
7	or person alleged to have violated any provision of law within the jurisdiction of the
8	Board of Ethics resides, or in the parish of the official domicile of any office or
9	employment held by the person who is the subject of the investigation or complaint,
10	or in the parish of domicile of the Board of Ethics or the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.
11	<u>§1141.4.</u> Notice and procedure
12	A.(1) Any public servant or other person who is to be the subject of a public
13	or private hearing and the complainant shall be given written notification of the
14	pending charges and of the time and place such hearing is to be held. Such
15	notification shall not be less than sixty days prior to the date set for the hearing.
16	Upon the request of a public servant or other person charged, the hearing may be
17	held sooner.
18	(2) The Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall give public notice of its hearings
19	that are conducted pursuant to R.S. 42:1141.5.
20	B.(1) For purposes of an investigation or a hearing, the Board of Ethics, any
21	panel thereof, or its staff, or the Ethics Adjudicatory Board, or any panel thereof,
22	may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance,
23	take evidence, and require the production of any records which a board or panel
24	deems relevant or material to the investigation or hearing. Such attendance of
25	witnesses and the production of any such records may be required at any place
26	designated by a board or panel at no cost to the public servant or other person
27	charged as permitted by the rules of the board requiring such attendance or
28	production or the board of the panel requiring such attendance or production.

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1	(2) The Board of Ethics and the Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall adopt rules
2	providing for discovery consistent with Chapter 3 of Title III of Book II of the Code
3	of Civil Procedure, to the extent and in the manner appropriate to its proceedings.
4	C. In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any public
5	servant or other person, any district court of this state within the jurisdiction of which
6	the inquiry is carried on, or within which said public servant or other person is found,
7	resides, or transacts business, upon application by the Board of Ethics or the Ethics
8	Adjudicatory Board shall have jurisdiction to issue to such public servant or other
9	person an order requiring him to appear before the board or its staff and to produce
10	evidence, if so ordered, or to give testimony concerning the matter under
11	consideration. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be deemed by the
12	court as to be contempt of the court.
13	D.(1) If any public employee willfully refuses or fails to appear before the
14	Board of Ethics or the Ethics Adjudicatory Board or any court authorized to conduct
15	any hearing or inquiry pertaining to the provisions of this Chapter, or having
16	appeared refuses to testify or answer any question specifically, directly, and narrowly
17	relating to the performance of his official duties on the ground that his testimony or
18	answers would tend to incriminate him, or refuses to accept immunity from
19	prosecution on account of any matter about which he may be asked to testify at any
20	such hearing or inquiry, such action shall be grounds for dismissal or forfeiture of
21	his office or position, and if dismissed, he shall not be eligible thereafter for
22	employment by the governmental entity for a period of five years, unless such
23	reemployment is authorized by a majority vote of the membership of the Board of
24	Ethics.
25	(2) If any elected official willfully refuses or fails to appear before the Board
26	of Ethics or the Ethics Adjudicatory Board or any court authorized to conduct any
27	hearing or inquiry pertaining to the provisions of this Chapter or having appeared
28	refuses to testify or answer any question specifically, directly, and narrowly relating
29	to the performance of his official duties on the ground that his testimony or answers
30	would tend to incriminate him, or refuses to accept immunity from prosecution on

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1	account of any matter about which he may be asked to testify at such hearing or
2	inquiry, such action shall be grounds for the imposition of penalties as provided in
3	<u>R.S. 42:1153.</u>
4	E. Any public servant or other person who is the subject of any hearing may
5	have legal counsel, cross-examine witnesses, call witnesses, and present evidence in
6	his own behalf. If a person receives an advisory opinion from the Board of Ethics
7	and he acts based upon such advisory opinion, the advisory opinion shall be
8	admissible as evidence at the hearing.
9	F. Any public servant or other person who is the subject of any investigation
10	shall be advised of his right to have an attorney present.
11	G. Any witness may be accompanied by counsel at investigations or
12	hearings, which counsel may advise the witness of his rights, subject to reasonable
13	limitations to prevent obstruction of or interference with the orderly conduct of the
14	investigation or hearing. His counsel may also submit proposed questions to be asked
15	for his client.
16	H. Any witness at any investigation or hearing, subject to rules and
17	regulations promulgated by the Board of Ethics or Ethics Adjudicatory Board, shall
18	be entitled to a copy of his testimony when it becomes important and relevant in a
19	criminal proceeding or subsequent investigation or hearing, provided that the
20	furnishing of such copy will not prejudice the public safety or security.
21	I. In making any official determination of whether any provision of law
22	within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics has been violated, the Ethics
23	Adjudicatory Board may consider testimony pursuant to the Louisiana Code of
24	Evidence.
25	J. Any public servant or other person who is aggrieved by any action taken
26	by a panel of the Board of Ethics may request a review of the panel's decision by the
27	full Board of Ethics within thirty days of the panel's decision. The Board of Ethics
28	shall determine whether or not to review the panel's action within thirty days of the
29	request for review.

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1	K. The records of the Board of Ethics prepared or obtained in connection
2	with investigations and private hearings conducted by the Board of Ethics, including
3	all extracts of minutes and votes to take any matter under consideration in connection
4	therewith, shall be deemed confidential and privileged, except that such records shall
5	be available to each member of the Board of Ethics upon request. Except as
6	provided in this Section and in R.S. 42:1111(E)(2)(c), all records, including the
7	results and conclusions reached in connection with any investigation or hearing, shall
8	be public.
9	L.(1) It shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than two
10	thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, for any
11	member of the Board of Ethics, its executive secretary, other employee, or any other
12	person, other than the person who is subject to the investigation or complaint, to
13	make public the testimony taken at a private investigation or private hearing of the
14	Board of Ethics or to make any public statement or give out any information
15	concerning a private investigation or private hearing of the Board of Ethics without
16	the written request of the public servant or other person investigated.
17	(2) Upon receipt of a written request by the public servant or person charged,
18	the Board of Ethics shall furnish the requestor with a certified copy of the entire
19	proceedings of a private hearing, including a verbatim transcript of all testimony
20	considered at such hearing, and make public the findings of any private investigation
21	or hearing in connection with the charges.
22	M. The provisions of the Open Meetings Law shall not apply to
23	investigations and private hearings conducted by the Board of Ethics.
24	<u>§1141.5. Adjudicatory hearings</u>
25	A. The Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall sit in rotating panels composed of
26	three administrative law judges randomly selected from among the members of the
27	Ethics Adjudicatory Board. The panel shall select the administrative law judge who
28	will preside over the hearing. The determination of the majority of the panel in a
29	particular case shall be the determination of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board. After

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1	the hearing, the presiding administrative law judge shall assign authorship
2	responsibility for the determination.
3	B. After the hearing, the adjudicatory panel shall determine whether a
4	violation of any provision of law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics has
5	occurred. If the adjudicatory panel determines that a violation has occurred, it shall
6	determine what authorized penalties or other sanctions, if any, should be imposed
7	and shall issue a final decision.
8	C. If the public hearing of the adjudicatory panel fails to disclose clear and
9	convincing evidence to support the charges, the adjudicatory panel shall make an
10	official determination of its findings and shall issue a final decision. The person
11	charged and the complainant shall be notified in writing within ten days of the
12	adjudicatory panel's rendition of a final decision. The person charged may require
13	the adjudicatory panel to make an official determination of the validity of the charges
14	against him.
15	D. If the adjudicatory panel determines that a violation has occurred and
16	prescribes authorized penalties or other sanctions, the public servant or person may
17	appeal as set forth in R.S. 42:1142.
18	<u>§1141.6. Declaratory opinions</u>
19	A. Upon application of a public servant, other person, or agency, the Board
20	of Ethics may declare rights, status, and other legal relations established by the
21	provisions of this Chapter or by any other law within its jurisdiction or under
22	opinions issued by the board, either before or after there has been a breach thereof.
23	The applicant may seek to have the Board of Ethics determine any question of
24	construction or validity arising under the provisions of this Chapter or by any other
25	law within its jurisdiction.
26	B. The Board of Ethics' power to declare rights, status, or legal relations
27	established by the provisions of this Chapter or by any other law within its
28	jurisdiction or under opinions issued by the board, or the construction of such laws
29	or opinions, is not limited or restricted to any proceeding where a declaratory opinion
30	is sought in order to terminate a controversy or remove an uncertainty.

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1	C. The purpose of a declaratory opinion is to settle and afford relief from
2	uncertainty and insecurity with respect to rights, status, and other legal relations
3	established by the provisions of this Chapter or by any other law within the Board
4	of Ethics' jurisdiction or under opinions issued by the board, or the construction of
5	such laws and opinions.
6	D. A declaratory opinion is a final decision of the Board of Ethics. The
7	decision of the board on an application for a declaratory opinion shall be rendered
8	after a public hearing and only after the requesting party, all other interested parties,
9	and the board's staff have been afforded full and complete opportunity to present
10	evidence, testimony, and argument. A declaratory opinion of the board shall be
11	considered a final decision and shall be reviewable by the Court of Appeal, First
12	Circuit, pursuant to R.S. 42:1142.
13	E. The Board of Ethics may refuse to render a declaratory opinion where
14	such opinion, if rendered, would not terminate the uncertainty or controversy giving
15	rise to the proceeding.
16	F. When a declaratory opinion is sought, the public servant, other person, or
17	agency, as necessary and appropriate for the rendition of a declaratory opinion, who
18	has or claims any interest which would be affected by the opinion shall be made a
19	respondent and given notice of the request and of all public hearings conducted
20	pursuant to the request.
21	G. The procedures for seeking a declaratory opinion and for the public
22	hearing on such request shall be provided by rule adopted by the Board of Ethics
23	pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.
24	* * *
25	§1151. Administrative enforcement
26	A. Enforcement as to current public employees. An agency head and any
27	other public servant having the authority to appoint a person to a position of public
28	service, regardless of whether or not such appointment requires the approval of the
29	Senate or any other body, employee, or person, shall take such action as may be
30	ordered by the board or panel a final decision of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board with

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1 respect to any public employee within his agency or any such appointee, upon a 2 finding by the board or panel determination that such employee or appointee has 3 violated any provision of law within the jurisdiction of the board Board of Ethics or 4 any order, rule, or regulation promulgated thereunder. Such action may include the 5 imposition of the conditions described in Subsection B of this Section. 6 B. Enforcement as to former public servants and other persons. Upon a 7 finding determination by the board or panel Ethics Adjudicatory Board or a court 8 of competent jurisdiction, that a former public servant or other person has violated 9 any provision of law within the jurisdiction of the board Board of Ethics or any 10 order, rule, or regulation promulgated hereunder, the agency head or the board or 11 panel Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall bar or impose reasonable conditions upon: 12 (1) The appearance before such agency of such former public servant or 13 other person. 14 (2) The conduct of, or negotiation or competition for, business with such 15 agency by such former public servant or other person, for such period of time as may 16 be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Chapter. 17 §1152. Rescission of action of a governmental entity 18 A. Subject to the limitations hereinafter set forth in this Section, the board 19 or panel Ethics Adjudicatory Board may cancel or rescind any contract of or permit 20 or license issued by a governmental entity without liability to the governmental 21 entity when: 22 (1) The board or panel Ethics Adjudicatory Board has found that a violation 23 of law within the jurisdiction of the board Board of Ethics has influenced the issuing 24 of the permit or license or the making of such contract. 25 (2) The board or panel Ethics Adjudicatory Board finds under all of the 26 circumstances that the interests of the governmental entity so require; however, such 27 rescission is to be limited so as to not adversely affect the interests of innocent third 28 parties. 29 B. The finding determination referred to in Subsection A of this Section shall 30 be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S. 42:1141 this Part and

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1 shall be subject to judicial review in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 42:1142, 2 provided that the board or panel Ethics Adjudicatory Board may suspend the 3 contract, permit, or license of the governmental entity subject to the limitations in 4 Paragraph  $\frac{A}{(A)}(2)$  of this Section pending the determination of the merits of the 5 controversy.

6 §1153. Penalties

A. Upon finding a determination that any elected official or other person has
violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the board Board of Ethics
except violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which shall be governed
by Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the board by a
majority vote of the membership, Ethics Adjudicatory Board may censure the elected
official or person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

B. Upon finding a determination that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the board Board of <u>Ethics</u> except violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which shall be governed by Chapter 11 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the board by a majority vote of the membership, <u>Ethics Adjudicatory Board</u> may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

§1154. Civil penalties for illegal payments

20

When the results of <u>a board an</u> investigation <u>conducted</u> pursuant to <del>R.S.</del> When the results of <u>a board an</u> investigation <u>conducted</u> pursuant to <del>R.S.</del> When the results of <u>a board an</u> investigation <u>conducted</u> pursuant to <del>R.S.</del> <del>42:1141</del> this Part indicates that a violation of R.S. 42:1117 has occurred, the board and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of a penalty by any person who violates R.S. 42:1117. The penalty shall be limited to an amount not in excess of ten thousand dollars. Any appeal of such <del>order by the board</del> final decision by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall be to the Court of Appeal, First Circuit, pursuant to R.S. 42:1142.

28 §1155. Penalties for illegal gain; forfeiture of gifts, payments

A. If an investigation <u>conducted</u> pursuant to <del>R.S. 42:1141</del> <u>this Part</u> reveals
 that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction

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1 of the board Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, the board and after an 2 adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the 3 payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such 4 economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic 5 advantage. Any appeal of such order final decision by the Ethics Adjudicatory 6 Board shall be to the Court of Appeal, First Circuit, pursuant to R.S. 42:1142. 7 B. The board Ethics Adjudicatory Board is authorized to order the forfeiture 8 of any gifts or payments made in violation of this Chapter. 9 §1156. Finding of possible criminal violation 10 Upon finding at a public hearing that there is probable cause to believe that 11 any public servant or other person has violated any criminal law of this state, the 12 board or panel Board of Ethics or the Ethics Adjudicatory Board shall forward a 13 copy of its findings to the district attorney of the parish in which the violation occurred, for appropriate action. Thereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of 14 15 this Chapter, such district attorney shall have access to all records of the board 16 relative to such charges. 17 §1157. Late filing fees 18 A.(1)(a) The staff of the board Board of Ethics may automatically assess and 19 issue a final order for the payment of late filing fees, in accordance with rules 20 adopted by the board Board of Ethics, for any failure to timely file any report or 21 statement due under any law under its jurisdiction as provided in R.S. 42:1132(C), 22 R.S. 24:50 et seq., R.S. 49:71 et seq., or R.S. 33:9661 et seq. A final order issued 23 pursuant to this Subparagraph shall be appealable to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board 24 for an adjudicatory hearing conducted in accordance with R.S. 42:1141.5. 25 (b) The Board of Ethics may waive all or any part of late filing fees assessed 26 pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph. Any request for waiver of late filing 27 fees assessed in a final order of the staff of the Board of Ethics shall be made to the 28 Board of Ethics, which shall promulgate rules governing the procedure to request a 29 waiver as well as to provide for waiver for "good cause" shown. "Good cause" shall 30 be defined as any action or circumstance which, in the considered judgment of the

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1	Board of Ethics, were not within the control of the late filer and which were the
2	direct cause of the late filing or any applicable provision in R.S. 18:1511.5(B). The
3	final disposition of the Board of Ethics on a request for waiver shall not be
4	appealable to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.
5	(c) The board <u>Board of Ethics</u> shall promulgate rules to facilitate the carrying
6	out of the provisions of this Chapter regarding order for, and payment of, and waiver
7	of late filing fees. Any appeal of such order for the payment of late fees shall be to
8	the board, which shall promulgate rules governing the procedure for appeals of late
9	filing fees.
10	(2) The late filing fees for election campaign finance reports shall be as
11	provided in R.S. 18:1505.4.
12	(3) (2) The late filing fees for any lobbyist required to register and file
13	reports under the provisions of R.S. 24:50 et seq., shall be as provided in R.S.
14	24:58(D). The late filing fees for any lobbyist required to register and file reports
15	under the provisions of R.S. 49:71 et seq., shall be as provided in R.S. 49:78(D);
16	however, the late filing fees applicable to a lobbyist for a lobbyist expenditure report
17	filed pursuant to R.S. 24:55(G) or R.S. 49:76(G) which contains all of the
18	information required by Part IV of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised
19	Statutes of 1950 and all of the information required by Part III of Chapter 1 of Title
20	24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 shall be fifty dollars per day. The late
21	filing fees for any lobbyist required to register and file reports under the provisions
22	of R.S. 33:9661 et seq., shall be as provided in R.S. 33:9668(D).
23	$\frac{(4)(a)(i)}{(3)(a)(i)}$ The late filing fees for any violation of R.S. 42:1114 shall
24	be as provided in R.S. 42:1124.1(A).
25	(ii) The late penalties for any violation of R.S. 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1,
26	or 1124.3 shall be as provided in R.S. 42:1124.4.
27	(b) The late filing fees for any violation of R.S. 42:1114.2 shall be as
28	provided in R.S. 42:1114.2(G).

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1	(5) $(4)$ Any late filing fees assessed by the board <u>Board of Ethics</u> or the <u>its</u>
2	staff of the board, for any failure to timely file any report or statement due, shall not
3	exceed the following:
4	(a) If the fee is forty dollars per day, the maximum shall be one thousand
5	dollars.
6	(b) If the fee is fifty dollars per day, the maximum shall be one thousand five
7	hundred dollars.
8	(c) If the fee is sixty dollars per day, the maximum shall be two thousand
9	dollars.
10	(d) If the fee is one hundred dollars per day, the maximum shall be two
11	thousand five hundred dollars.
12	(e) If the fee is two hundred dollars per day, the maximum shall be three
13	thousand dollars.
14	B. The staff of the board Board of Ethics shall mail by certified mail a notice
15	of delinquency within four days after the due date of which the staff knows or has
16	reason to know, for any report or statement due under the laws within its jurisdiction
17	which has not been timely filed.
18	C. All funds collected by the staff of the board Board of Ethics as provided
19	in Subsection A of this Section shall be deposited upon receipt in the state treasury.
20	Section 2. R.S. 42:1141(C)(4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), (D), (E), and (F), 1141.1, and
21	1157.2 are hereby repealed in their entirety.
22	Section 3. The provisions of this Act shall have prospective application only and the
23	provisions of R.S. 42:1141(C)(3)(c) as amended by this Act shall apply only to matters
24	initiated by sworn complaint received or, if no sworn complaint was received, vote by the
25	Board of Ethics, on or after the effective date of this Act.

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HB NO. 950

#### **ENROLLED**

1	Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2	signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3	by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4	vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5	effective on the day following such approval.

### SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

### GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_