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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to political activities on school grounds; creating s. 104.315, F.S.; defining terms; providing that certain activities are allowed on school grounds; authorizing that candidates may be invited to speak as candidates on school grounds if certain conditions are met; prohibiting certain political activities on school grounds; prohibiting certain employees from using e-mail, offices or time during work hours for political advocacy; providing criminal penalties for persons who violate specified provisions; providing that each such violation is a separate offense; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 104.315, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

104.315 Political activities on school grounds.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in s. 97.021 and includes a declared candidate, an incumbent who is presumed to be a future candidate, and any person whose possible candidacy is the subject of intense public speculation. The term does not include a person acting within his or her individual capacity

26 | who does not speak about politics or a campaign.

27 | (b) "Public office" includes any elective office.

28 | (c) "School grounds" means the buildings and grounds of
29 | any public K-12 school.

30 | (2) The following activities are allowed on school
31 | grounds:

32 | (a) Candidate forums or debates at which all qualified
33 | candidates for the office are invited.

34 | (b) Use of facilities on the same terms and conditions,
35 | including, but not limited to, financial, as are required of
36 | other users of such facilities.

37 | (c) Political advertisements under the same terms,
38 | including, but not limited to, financial, as are applied to
39 | other advertisements from outside groups allowed on school
40 | grounds.

41 | (d) Student newspaper editorials or candidate endorsements
42 | that include a disclaimer that the opinion is solely that of the
43 | author and is not the opinion or endorsement of the school or
44 | institution.

45 | (e) Voter registration and education events that do not
46 | involve a campaign or political party.

47 | (f) Inviting a candidate to speak in his or her individual
48 | capacity, and not as a candidate; however, such person may not
49 | speak about a campaign or any political issues.

50 | (3) A candidate may be invited to speak in his or her

51 capacity as a candidate on school grounds only if:

52 (a) All other candidates are invited to speak on school
53 grounds. Such invitations do not need to be for the same event,
54 place, or time, but must be similar events that take place at
55 similar times. Documentation of such invitations must be
56 preserved.

57 (b) The introduction of such candidate includes a
58 disclaimer that the school or institution does not endorse any
59 candidate for public office.

60 (4) The following political activities are prohibited on
61 school grounds:

62 (a) Posting campaign signs.

63 (b) Distributing campaign literature.

64 (c) Campaigning for or with candidates.

65 (d) Any activity that may be reasonably expected to give
66 the impression of support or endorsement of any particular
67 candidate over another candidate.

68 (e) Collecting campaign donations or contributions.

69 (f) Voter registration events that involve a candidate or
70 political party.

71 (5) A faculty or staff member of any K-12 public school or
72 a public institution of higher education as defined in s.
73 1004.097(2) may not use e-mail, offices, or time during working
74 hours for political advocacy.

75 (6) (a) A person who violates this section commits a

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76 | misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
77 | 775.082 or s. 775.083.

78 | (b) Each such violation is a separate offense.

79 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.