

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to use of state resources to influence
 3 statewide ballot initiatives; creating s. 100.372,
 4 F.S.; providing a short title, legislative intent, and
 5 definitions; prohibiting certain entities from
 6 producing, disseminating, or funding specified public
 7 service announcements during a certain timeframe;
 8 providing construction; providing penalties; requiring
 9 certain entities to maintain specified records and
 10 make such records available to the public; providing
 11 an effective date.

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

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 15 **Section 1. Section 100.372, Florida Statutes, is created**
 16 **to read:**

17 100.372 Prohibition on public service announcement
 18 publications or expenditures during a statewide ballot
 19 initiative election period.—

20 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Public
 21 Resource Election Neutrality Act."

22 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature finds that state
 23 resources should not be used to influence the outcome of
 24 elections, including those involving statewide ballot
 25 initiatives. This act ensures that taxpayer-funded public

26 service announcements are not used to sway voters or create the
27 appearance of state agency endorsement or opposition to any
28 ballot measure during critical election periods.

29 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

30 (a) "Public service announcement" means any advertisement,
31 communication, or promotional material produced or disseminated
32 in any medium including television, radio, social media, print,
33 or digital funded in whole or in part by state revenues that is
34 intended to inform, educate, or influence the public.

35 (b) "State department or agency" means any department,
36 agency, board, commission, or other entity under the
37 jurisdiction of the State of Florida, including those funded
38 wholly or partially by state revenues.

39 (c) "Statewide ballot initiative" means any proposed
40 constitutional amendment, referendum, or other measure that has
41 been certified for placement on the ballot in a general
42 election.

43 (4) PROHIBITED ACTS.—

44 (a) Beginning on the last day of certification of a
45 statewide ballot initiative and continuing through the
46 conclusion of the general election:

47 1. A state department or agency may not produce,
48 disseminate, or fund any public service announcement related to,
49 or which could reasonably be interpreted to support or oppose, a
50 statewide ballot initiative.

51 2. Funds, resources, or personnel of any state department
52 or agency may not be used to directly or indirectly influence
53 the outcome of a statewide ballot initiative.

54 (b) This subsection does not apply to public service
55 announcements that are required to address:

56 1. Immediate threats to public health, safety, or welfare.

57 2. Routine governmental communications unrelated to any
58 statewide ballot initiative.

59 (5) PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT.—

60 (a)1. Any individual acting in their official capacity who
61 violates this section is subject to suspension, removal, or
62 disciplinary action as provided by general law.

63 2. Any state department or agency found to have violated
64 this section may have its future appropriations reduced by the
65 Legislature.

66 (b)1. The Florida Commission on Ethics may investigate
67 complaints of violations of this section.

68 2. Any individual or entity aggrieved by a violation of
69 this section may file a complaint with the Florida Commission on
70 Ethics or seek injunctive relief in a court of competent
71 jurisdiction.

72 (6) REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—All state departments and
73 agencies shall maintain records of public service announcements
74 produced or funded during the 12 months preceding a general
75 election and make such records available to the public.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.