



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Lynda J. Jacobsen

S.B. 33

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Tavares

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits a person from using print advertising, including a sample ballot, that is intended to mislead voters into believing that the named candidate has received the endorsement of a political party.
- Specifies that advertising that uses the same lettering, format, colors, logo, and language as an official ballot or a sample ballot issued by a political party must be considered to be intended to mislead voters into believing that the named candidate has received the endorsement of a political party, regardless of whether the term "unofficial" appears on the advertising.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Misleading print advertising

The bill establishes a new category of prohibited campaign materials. Under the bill, any person, during the course of any campaign for nomination or election to public office or office of a political party, is prohibited from, knowingly and with intent to affect the outcome of the campaign, using print advertising, including a sample ballot, that is intended to mislead voters into believing that the candidate named in the advertising has received the endorsement of a political party. Print advertising that uses the same lettering, format, colors, logo, and language as an official ballot or a sample ballot issued by a political party is to be considered as being intended to mislead voters into believing that the named candidate has received the endorsement of a political party, regardless of whether the term "unofficial" appears on the advertising. (R.C. 3517.21(A)(9).)

A person who violates this prohibition will be imprisoned for not more than six months or fined not more than \$5,000, or both (R.C. 3517.992(V) – *not in the bill*).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-01-11

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