

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill would prohibit a person from criminally coercing an individual as a means to induce a person to become a candidate for public office, or to refrain from becoming a candidate.

Current law prohibits a person from rewarding, or promising to reward an individual for either becoming or refraining from becoming a candidate. A prohibition on threatening reprisals against a voter to induce that person to vote in a particular manner also currently exists in law.

A person who criminally coerces a candidate or prospective candidate would be subject to the existing administrative remedy contained in the Fair Campaign Practices Act, in addition to already-existing criminal penalties provided in Chapter 609.