

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 892

**DATE:** March 1, 2005

**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** DeLaForest and others

**Subject:** Unauthorized removal of campaign materials

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### Overview

Current law treats the taking of campaign material like any other theft, so that the offense level depends on the value of the materials taken. The bill creates specific offenses for the unauthorized taking of campaign materials.

#### Section

- 1**      **Unauthorized removal of campaign materials.** Adds a new section to the general provisions chapter of the election code. Makes it a misdemeanor for anyone other than a candidate to remove campaign material without the permission of (1) the owner of the material, or (2) the owner of the property where the material was taken.

Makes it a gross misdemeanor for a candidate or elected official to commit the same act. Defines a candidate to mean someone seeking nomination or election to federal (other than President or Vice-President), statewide, judicial, legislative, or local office. Defines an elected official to mean someone holding one of these offices who is not currently seeking nomination or election to the office.

Effective August 1, 2005, for offenses committed on or after that date.