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Group wins ethics support in high places

LA Ethics 1, the coalition of 50 groups backing ethics reform in Louisiana, said it has won support from four statewide officeholders.

Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, Secretary of State Jay Dardenne, State Treasurer John Kennedy and Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon support a House Bill 730 amendment by state Rep. Michael Jackson, D-Baton Rouge, that targets statewide officeholders.

The comprehensive ethics reform bill originally targeted legislators this year and the LA Ethics 1 group, of which the Baton Rouge Area Chamber is a key member, planned to bring statewide officials into key financial disclosure requirements in the second year of reforms.

“I’m for full disclosure,” Donelon told LA Ethics 1. “The public benefits — the more open government is.”

Last week, the House and Governmental Affairs Committee amended the bill to require all elected statewide officials to disclose their sources of income in the same form required of the governor.