

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: April 1, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Political Parties; Candidate Endorsements

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Fox</u>	<u>Bradshaw</u>	<u>EE</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Senate Bill 2538 modifies the requirements for political party expenditures which jointly endorse three or more candidates. The bill revises the current exemption for these so-called "3-packs," providing that such multiple endorsement advertisements by political parties are only exempt from campaign finance requirements if the endorsement: allocates no more than twice as much time, space, or services to any candidate as compared to any other candidate being endorsed in the ad; and, all the candidates being endorsed are running in elections to be held on the same date.

This bill substantially amends section 106.021 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Florida law exempts a political party advertisement which jointly endorses three or more candidates from the contribution limits. s. 106.021(3), F.S. (1997). The law provides that any expenditure for these so-called "3-packs" is considered neither an expenditure nor a contribution for campaign finance purposes. *Id.* The Legislature created the "3-packs" in the major election reform package of 1997, reducing the minimum number of candidates which the party ad needs to jointly endorse from six to three in order to qualify for the exclusion. Ch. 97-13, s. 9, at 22, Laws of Fla.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill revises the current exemption for "3-packs," providing that such multiple endorsement advertisements by political parties are only exempt from campaign finance requirements if the endorsement: allocates no more than twice as much time, space, or services to any candidate as

compared to any other candidate being endorsed in the ad; and all the candidates being endorsed are running on the same election date.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
