

By Representative Burroughs

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act protecting the right of free expression
3 of candidates for public office; granting all
4 candidates for public office the right to
5 express their positions on public issues;
6 repealing provisions of the Code of Judicial
7 Conduct which conflict with this right;
8 providing an effective date.

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10 WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the United States
11 Constitution prohibits governments from abridging the freedom
12 of speech, and

13 WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article I of the State
14 Constitution grants to every person the right to speak, write,
15 and publish his or her sentiments on all subjects and
16 prohibits any law that restrains or abridges the liberty of
17 speech, and

18 WHEREAS, no form of expression is more sacred to these
19 protections than political speech, and no political speech is
20 more worthy of these protections than that of candidates for
21 public office, and

22 WHEREAS, freedom of political expression is the
23 linchpin of our liberty, and, for our liberty to remain
24 secure, governments must not restrain the liberty of
25 candidates for public office to exercise the right of
26 expression granted to all, NOW, THEREFORE,

27
28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

29
30 Section 1. All candidates for public office, including
31 candidates for judicial office, have the right to publicly

