

By the Committee on Rules, Ethics & Elections and  
Representative Goodlette

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to qualifying for judicial  
3           office; amending s. 105.031, F.S.; providing an  
4           earlier qualifying period for candidates for  
5           judicial office; providing an effective date.  
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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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9           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 105.031, Florida  
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11           105.031 Qualification; filing fee; candidate's oath;  
12 items required to be filed.--

13           (1) TIME OF QUALIFYING.--Except for candidates for  
14 judicial office, nonpartisan candidates for multicounty office  
15 shall qualify with the Division of Elections of the Department  
16 of State and nonpartisan candidates for countywide or less  
17 than countywide office shall qualify with the supervisor of  
18 elections. Candidates for judicial office other than the  
19 office of county court judge shall qualify with the Division  
20 of Elections of the Department of State, and candidates for  
21 the office of county court judge shall qualify with the  
22 supervisor of elections of the county. Candidates for  
23 judicial office shall qualify no earlier than noon of the  
24 120th day, and no later than noon of the 116th day, before the  
25 first primary election. Candidates for the office of school  
26 board member shall qualify no earlier than noon of the 50th  
27 day, and no later than noon of the 46th day, before the first  
28 primary election. Filing shall be on forms provided for that  
29 purpose by the Division of Elections and furnished by the  
30 appropriate qualifying officer. Any person seeking to qualify  
31 by the alternative method, as set forth in s. 105.035, if the

1 person has submitted the necessary petitions by the required  
2 deadline and is notified after the fifth day prior to the last  
3 day for qualifying that the required number of signatures has  
4 been obtained, shall be entitled to subscribe to the  
5 candidate's oath and file the qualifying papers at any time  
6 within 5 days from the date he or she is notified that the  
7 necessary number of signatures has been obtained. Any person  
8 other than a write-in candidate who qualifies within the time  
9 prescribed in this subsection shall be entitled to have his or  
10 her name printed on the ballot.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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Provides that candidates for judicial office shall  
qualify no earlier than noon of the 120th day, and no  
later than noon of the 116th day, before the first  
primary election.

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