

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: SB 1536
 SPONSOR: Senator Sebesta
 SUBJECT: Supervisors of Elections; provides for nonpartisan election of supervisors of elections
 DATE: February 8, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rubinas	Rubinas	EE	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	CA	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Senate Bill 1536 requires the supervisors of elections to be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

This bill substantially amends, creates, or repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: ss. 98.015, 101.151, 105.031, 105.035, 105.041, 105.051, 105.061, 105.08, and 105.09.

II. Present Situation:

Each of Florida’s 67 counties has a supervisor of elections whose responsibilities include voter registration and conducting elections. With the exception of Miami-Dade County,¹ each of the supervisors of elections is an elected constitutional officer. Most of the supervisors of elections run on a partisan basis; however, a few supervisors are elected on a nonpartisan basis pursuant to county charter.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires all supervisors of elections to be elected on a nonpartisan basis, except for the supervisor of elections of Miami-Dade County.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

¹ Pursuant to state constitutional mandate, the County Manager may appoint the supervisor of elections in Miami-Dade County.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The political parties will realize a loss from the filing fees and party assessments of candidates for supervisor of elections who currently run on a partisan basis. The political parties receive the 2 percent party assessment and the 3 percent filing fee from partisan candidates for supervisors of elections. In addition, nonpartisan candidates for supervisor of elections who pay a qualifying fee would see a reduction in the fees since they would not be required to pay a party assessment.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Election officials would be relieved of the administrative costs associated with the collection and remittance of the party assessment and filing fee monies for candidates seeking the office of supervisor of elections.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.