

By the Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Appropriations; and Senator Lynn

606-08356-08

2008342c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to candidates for public office; amending
3 s. 99.012, F.S.; authorizing a law enforcement officer to
4 qualify as a candidate for public office without resigning
5 his or her law enforcement position; providing an
6 exception; providing for reinstatement to the law
7 enforcement office; amending s. 99.095, F.S.; authorizing
8 a candidate to pay a pro rata portion of the qualifying
9 fee under certain conditions; providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12
13 Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 99.012,
14 Florida Statutes, to read:

15 99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public
16 office.--

17 (8) A law enforcement officer is not required to resign his
18 or her law enforcement office upon qualifying as a candidate for
19 public office or election to public office unless the officer is
20 seeking a public office currently held by an officer who has
21 authority to appoint, employ, promote, or otherwise supervise
22 that person and who has qualified as a candidate for reelection
23 to that office. This chapter does not prohibit a subordinate
24 officer, deputy sheriff, or police officer from being reinstated
25 to duty if he or she is unsuccessful in seeking public office.

26 Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 99.095,
27 Florida Statutes, to read:

28 99.095 Petition process in lieu of a qualifying fee and
29 party assessment.--

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30 (6) If a candidate obtains at least 50 percent but less
31 than 100 percent of the required number of signatures set forth
32 in this section, the candidate may pay a pro rata portion of the
33 qualifying fee required pursuant to s. 99.092.

34 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2009.