

By Senator Wilson

33-00051-09

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to elections; amending s. 99.092,  
3           F.S.; requiring a write-in candidate who seeks to  
4           qualify for nomination or election to any office to  
5           pay a qualifying fee equal to a specified percentage  
6           of the annual salary for the office sought; providing  
7           an effective date.

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

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11           Section 1. Section 99.092, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
12   read:

13           99.092 Qualifying fee of candidate; notification of  
14   Department of State.—

15           (1) (a) Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or  
16   election to any office, except a person seeking to qualify by  
17   the petition process pursuant to s. 99.095 and except a person  
18   seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, shall pay a  
19   qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and election  
20   assessment, to the officer with whom the person qualifies, and  
21   any party assessment levied, and shall attach the original or  
22   signed duplicate of the receipt for his or her party assessment  
23   or pay the same, in accordance with ~~the provisions of s.~~  
24   103.121, at the time of filing his or her other qualifying  
25   papers. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of the annual  
26   salary of the office. The amount of the election assessment is 1  
27   percent of the annual salary of the office sought. The election  
28   assessment shall be deposited into the Elections Commission  
29   Trust Fund. The amount of the party assessment is 2 percent of

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30 the annual salary. The annual salary of the office for purposes  
31 of computing the filing fee, election assessment, and party  
32 assessment shall be computed by multiplying 12 times the monthly  
33 salary, excluding any special qualification pay, authorized for  
34 such office as of July 1 immediately preceding the first day of  
35 qualifying.

36 (b) Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or  
37 election to any office as a write-in candidate, except a person  
38 seeking to qualify by the petition process pursuant to s.  
39 99.095, shall pay a qualifying fee that is 3 percent of the  
40 annual salary for the office sought.

41 (c) A ~~No~~ qualifying fee may not ~~shall~~ be returned to the  
42 candidate unless the candidate withdraws his or her candidacy  
43 before the last date to qualify. If a candidate dies before  
44 ~~prior to~~ an election and has not withdrawn his or her candidacy  
45 before the last date to qualify, the candidate's qualifying fee  
46 shall be returned to his or her designated beneficiary, and, if  
47 the filing fee or any portion thereof has been transferred to  
48 the political party of the candidate, the Secretary of State  
49 shall direct the party to return that portion to the designated  
50 beneficiary of the candidate.

51 (2) The supervisor of elections shall, immediately after  
52 the last day for qualifying, submit to the Department of State a  
53 list containing the names, party affiliations, and addresses of  
54 all candidates and the offices for which they qualified.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.