

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to elections; amending s. 99.061,  
 3           F.S.; revising the timeframe for a candidate to pay a  
 4           qualifying fee under certain circumstances; providing  
 5           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. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
 10 99.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to  
 12 federal, state, county, or district office.—

13           (7) (a) In order for a candidate to be qualified, the  
 14 following items must be received by the filing officer by the  
 15 end of the qualifying period:

16           1. A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's  
 17 campaign account payable to the person or entity as prescribed  
 18 by the filing officer in an amount not less than the fee  
 19 required by s. 99.092, unless the candidate obtained the  
 20 required number of signatures on petitions pursuant to s.  
 21 99.095. The filing fee for a special district candidate is not  
 22 required to be drawn upon the candidate's campaign account. If a  
 23 candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the  
 24 filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and,  
 25 notwithstanding ~~the candidate shall have until~~ the end of the

26 | qualifying period, the candidate shall have 48 hours from the  
27 | time such notification is received, excluding Saturdays,  
28 | Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a cashier's  
29 | check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to  
30 | pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall disqualify  
31 | the candidate.

32 |       2. The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must  
33 | contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the  
34 | ballot; the office sought, including the district or group  
35 | number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, which  
36 | must be verified under oath or affirmation pursuant to s.  
37 | 92.525(1) (a).

38 |       3. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement  
39 | of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b).

40 |       4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign  
41 | treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by  
42 | s. 106.021.

43 |       5. The full and public disclosure or statement of  
44 | financial interests required by subsection (5). A public officer  
45 | who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of  
46 | financial interests with the Commission on Ethics or the  
47 | supervisor of elections prior to qualifying for office may file  
48 | a copy of that disclosure at the time of qualifying.

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