

By Senator Rodriguez

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to judicial candidate qualifying;
3 amending s. 105.031, F.S.; requiring candidates
4 seeking to qualify for election to the office of
5 circuit judge or county court judge to include a
6 completed application form consistent with that of a
7 judicial nominating commission in their qualifying
8 papers; requiring such candidates to post the
9 completed form on a campaign website; providing an
10 effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Present paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of
15 section 105.031, Florida Statutes, is amended, and a new
16 paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, to read:

17 105.031 Qualification; filing fee; candidate's oath; items
18 required to be filed.—

19 (5) ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—

20 (b) In addition to any items required by paragraph (a), a
21 candidate seeking to qualify for election to the office of
22 circuit judge or county court judge shall file, before the last
23 day of qualifying, a completed application form that is verified
24 pursuant to s. 92.525 and consistent with the application
25 submitted to a judicial nominating commission from applicants
26 who are seeking an appointment to a trial court. Additionally,
27 if such candidate has a campaign website other than a page on a
28 social media platform, he or she must post on that website a
29 copy of the completed application form within 15 days after the

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30 filing of his or her qualifying papers.

31 (c)~~(b)~~ If the filing officer receives qualifying papers
32 that do not include all of the items ~~as~~ required by paragraphs
33 (a) and (b), as applicable, before ~~paragraph (a) prior to~~ the
34 last day of qualifying, the filing officer must ~~shall~~ make a
35 reasonable effort to notify the candidate of the missing or
36 incomplete items and ~~shall~~ inform the candidate that all
37 required items must be received by the close of qualifying. A
38 candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot may not be
39 changed after the end of qualifying.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.