

By Senator Thurston

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to no party affiliation candidates;  
3       amending s. 99.0955, F.S.; requiring a person seeking  
4       to qualify for office as a candidate with no party  
5       affiliation to state that he or she is registered  
6       without party affiliation and has not been a  
7       registered member of a political party for a specified  
8       period of time before qualifying, as a condition of  
9       qualifying; amending ss. 99.061 and 99.063, F.S.;  
10      conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
11      providing an effective date.

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

14  
15       Section 1. Section 99.0955, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
16      read:

17       99.0955 Candidates with no party affiliation; candidate  
18      oath; name on general election ballot.—

19       (1) (a) Each person seeking to qualify for election as a  
20      candidate with no party affiliation shall file his or her  
21      qualifying papers and pay the qualifying fee or qualify by the  
22      petition process pursuant to s. 99.095 with the officer and  
23      during the times and under the circumstances prescribed in s.  
24      99.061. Upon qualifying, the candidate is entitled to have his  
25      or her name placed on the general election ballot.

26       (b) In addition, at the time of subscribing to the oath or  
27      affirmation in s. 99.021, any person seeking to qualify for  
28      election as a candidate with no party affiliation shall state in  
29      writing that the person has not been a registered member of any

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30 political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying  
31 preceding the general election for which the person seeks to  
32 qualify.

33 (2) The qualifying fee for candidates with no party  
34 affiliation shall consist of a filing fee and an election  
35 assessment as prescribed in s. 99.092. Filing fees paid to the  
36 Department of State shall be deposited into the General Revenue  
37 Fund of the state. Filing fees paid to the supervisor of  
38 elections shall be deposited into the general revenue fund of  
39 the county.

40 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
41 99.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

42 99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to  
43 federal, state, county, or district office.-

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

47 1. A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's  
48 campaign account payable to the person or entity as prescribed  
49 by the filing officer in an amount not less than the fee  
50 required by s. 99.092, unless the candidate obtained the  
51 required number of signatures on petitions pursuant to s.  
52 99.095. The filing fee for a special district candidate is not  
53 required to be drawn upon the candidate's campaign account. If a  
54 candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the  
55 filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the  
56 candidate shall have until the end of qualifying to pay the fee  
57 with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign  
58 account. Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph

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59 shall disqualify the candidate.

60 2. The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must  
61 contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the  
62 ballot; the office sought, including the district or group  
63 number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, which  
64 must be verified under oath or affirmation pursuant to s.  
65 92.525(1) (a).

66 3. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement  
67 of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b); or,  
68 if the office sought is without party affiliation, the written  
69 statement required by s. 99.0955(1) (b).

70 4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign  
71 treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by  
72 s. 106.021.

73 5. The full and public disclosure or statement of financial  
74 interests required by subsection (5). A public officer who has  
75 filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial  
76 interests with the Commission on Ethics or the supervisor of  
77 elections prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that  
78 disclosure at the time of qualifying.

79 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
80 99.063, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

81 99.063 Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.—

82 (2) No later than 5 p.m. of the 9th day following the  
83 primary election, each designated candidate for Lieutenant  
84 Governor shall file with the Department of State:

85 (b) If the office sought is partisan, the written statement  
86 of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b); or,  
87 if the office sought is without party affiliation, the written

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88 statement required by s. 99.0955(1)(b).

89 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.