

By Senator Arrington

25-00445A-25

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to candidate qualification; creating  
3           s. 99.013, F.S.; providing eligibility requirements  
4           for persons seeking to qualify for nomination as  
5           candidates of a political party or as candidates with  
6           no party affiliation; providing that certain entities  
7           may bring an action for declaratory and injunctive  
8           relief based on a certain claim; prohibiting a person  
9           from qualifying as a candidate for election and  
10          prohibiting his or her name from appearing on the  
11          ballot under certain circumstances; providing an  
12          effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. Section 99.013, Florida Statutes, is created to  
17           read:

18           99.013 Eligibility to qualify for nomination as a candidate  
19           of a political party or candidate with no party affiliation.-

20           (1) (a) A person seeking to qualify for nomination as a  
21           candidate of a political party must have been a registered  
22           member of the political party for which the person is seeking  
23           nomination as a candidate for at least 365 days before the  
24           beginning of the qualifying period preceding the general  
25           election for which the person seeks to qualify.

26           (b) A person seeking to qualify for nomination as a  
27           candidate with no party affiliation must be registered without  
28           any party affiliation and may not have been a registered member  
29           of any political party for at least 365 days before the

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30 beginning of the qualifying period preceding the general  
31 election for which the person seeks to qualify.

32 (2) A political party, in addition to any other person or  
33 entity with standing, may bring an action for declaratory and  
34 injunctive relief based on a claim that a person seeking to  
35 qualify for nomination as a candidate of such political party or  
36 as a candidate with no party affiliation did not comply with  
37 this section.

38 (3) If a final judgment of a circuit court determines that  
39 a person did not comply with this section, the person may not be  
40 qualified as a candidate for election and his or her name may  
41 not appear on the ballot.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.