

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

BILL: SB 756, 1st Eng.

[S0756.HMS]

SPONSOR: Committee on Ethics and Elections

SUBJECT: Elections

PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

DATE: April 28, 1999

I. Amendments Contained in Message

House Amendment 1 - 901935 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message

House Amendment 1 provides the same general scheme for the election of nonpartisan school board members with one important difference. The amendment provides that if two or more candidates qualify for office, their names will appear on the first primary ballot. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will have their names appear on the general election ballot, *even if one of those candidates has received a majority in the first primary election.*

Additionally, the amendment provides two changes with respect to judicial candidates. It requires judicial candidates to sign a statement that they have read and understand the requirements of the Code of Judicial Conduct (this provision passed the Senate on HB 819) and changes the penalty for judicial candidates who violate the limitations on political activity from a 1st degree misdemeanor to a civil penalty up to \$1,000 to be determined by the Florida Elections Commission.