

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SJR 526

SPONSOR: Senators Meek, Diaz de la Portilla and others

SUBJECT: Local government; nonpartisan election of supervisors of elections

DATE: March 24, 2001      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Bradshaw	Bradshaw	EE	Favorable/CS
2.	_____	_____	CA	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

Committee Substitute for Senate Joint Resolution 526 proposes an amendment to the Constitution to require all of Florida’s supervisors of elections, including those from charter counties, to be elected on a nonpartisan basis. If passed by a vote of 3/5 of the members of each house of the Legislature, the proposed amendment will be presented to the voters at the 2002 General Election.

This joint resolution proposes an amendment to Art. VIII, section 1, of the Florida Constitution.

**II. Present Situation:**

Each of Florida’s 67 counties has a supervisor of elections whose responsibilities include voter registration and conducting elections. With the exception of Dade County, each of the supervisors of elections is an elected constitutional officer. Most of the supervisors of elections run on a partisan basis; however, a few supervisors are elected on a nonpartisan basis pursuant to county charter. The supervisor of elections in Dade County is appointed by the County Manager.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

Committee Substitute for Senate Joint Resolution 526 proposes an amendment to the Constitution to provide for the election of all of Florida’s supervisors of elections on a nonpartisan basis, including supervisors of elections in charter counties.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

If approved by the voters, the political parties will realize a loss from the filing fees and party assessments of candidates for supervisor of elections who currently run on a partisan basis. The political parties receive the 2 percent party assessment and the 3 percent filing fee from partisan candidates for supervisor of elections. In addition, nonpartisan candidates for supervisor of elections who pay a qualifying fee would see a reduction in the fees since they would not be required to pay a party assessment.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

Each constitutional amendment is required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county, once in the sixth week and once in the tenth week preceding the general election. Costs for advertising vary depending on the length of the amendment; however, the cost per amendment is estimated to be \$30,000.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.