

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

[s0618.hms.doc]

BILL: CS/SB 618, 1st Eng. (HB 1409)

SPONSOR: Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Sanderson (Rules, Ethics and Elections Committee, Representative Goodlette, and others)

SUBJECT: Elections

PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

DATE: March 22, 2002

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 041683 (body with title)

House Amendment 2 – 193279 to House Amendment 1 – 041683 (body with title)

House Amendment 3 – 742264 to House Amendment 1 – 041683 ((body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 essentially returns to SB 618 as originally filed, with some modifications. The major differences between the House Amendment 1 and CS/SB 618 are that **House Amendment 1**:

- Restores a watered-down version of the Voter Responsibilities portion of the Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, and specifically informs the voter that failure to perform any of the Responsibilities does not prohibit a person from voting (undoes Jones floor amendment abolishing the Voter Responsibilities).
- Incorporates SB 1350, restoring the current statutory prohibition against *indirect campaign contributions* and adopting a more limited prohibition on *charitable contributions* by candidates and others made in exchange for political support.
- Allows candidates and other individuals to be reimbursed from campaign funds for travel, food and beverage, office supplies, and thank you notes to campaign supporters. [Retroactive application]
- Eliminates the mandatory use of an instructional model at each polling place (undoes Klein floor amendment).
- Removes a proposed provision of substantive law providing that voters who are in line to vote at 7 p.m. be admitted to the polling place for the purpose of voting (undoes Meek floor amendment). However, **House Amendment 1** does embody this right in the Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.
- Does not codify poll worker procedures for contacting the supervisor's office or accessing a master list of county voter registrants when a person presents himself or herself to vote and the person's name is not on the precinct register; however, this is current polling place practice and remains a pre-condition of the USDOJ's preclearance of Florida's Provisional Ballot scheme.

House Amendment 2 is an amendment to House Amendment 1 that requires supervisors of elections to provide absentee ballot request forms to any political party, upon request, for distribution to its members.

House Amendment 3 is an amendment to House Amendment 1 that makes it more difficult to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot by citizen initiative (substance of HB 909, with some modifications from SB 2250). It limits the amount of time a petition signature remains valid, and requires signatures to be submitted to the supervisors of elections for verification 180 days before the general election at which the amendment is to be voted.