

By Senator Rodriguez

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to elections; amending s. 99.061,
3 F.S.; revising the timeframe for a candidate to pay a
4 qualifying fee under certain circumstances; providing
5 an effective date.

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

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9 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
10 99.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to
12 federal, state, county, or district office.—

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

16 1. A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's
17 campaign account payable to the person or entity as prescribed
18 by the filing officer in an amount not less than the fee
19 required by s. 99.092, unless the candidate obtained the
20 required number of signatures on petitions pursuant to s.
21 99.095. The filing fee for a special district candidate is not
22 required to be drawn upon the candidate's campaign account. If a
23 candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the
24 filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and,
25 notwithstanding the candidate shall have until the end of the
26 qualifying period, the candidate shall have 48 hours from the
27 time such notification is received, excluding Saturdays,
28 Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a cashier's
29 check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to
30 pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall disqualify
31 the candidate.

32 2. The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must

37-01060-17

2017758__

33 contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the
34 ballot; the office sought, including the district or group
35 number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, which
36 must be verified under oath or affirmation pursuant to s.
37 92.525(1) (a).

38 3. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement
39 of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b).

40 4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign
41 treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by
42 s. 106.021.

43 5. The full and public disclosure or statement of financial
44 interests required by subsection (5). A public officer who has
45 filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial
46 interests with the Commission on Ethics or the supervisor of
47 elections prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that
48 disclosure at the time of qualifying.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.