

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to political party affiliations of
 3 qualifying candidates; amending s. 99.021, F.S.;
 4 requiring a person seeking to qualify for office as a
 5 candidate with no party affiliation to subscribe to an
 6 oath or affirmation that he or she is registered
 7 without party affiliation and has not been a
 8 registered member of a political party for a specified
 9 timeframe; amending ss. 99.061 and 99.063, F.S.;
 10 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 11 providing an effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 14

15 Section 1. Present paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of
 16 section 99.021, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph
 17 (d), and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to
 18 read:

19 99.021 Form of candidate oath.—

20 (1)

21 (c) In addition, any person seeking to qualify for office
 22 as a candidate with no party affiliation shall, at the time of
 23 subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing that he
 24 or she is registered without any party affiliation and that he
 25 or she has not been a registered member of any political party

26 | for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the
27 | general election for which the person seeks to qualify.

28 | Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
29 | 99.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 | 99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to
31 | federal, state, county, or district office.—

32 | (7) (a) In order for a candidate to be qualified, the
33 | following items must be received by the filing officer by the
34 | end of the qualifying period:

35 | 1. A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's
36 | campaign account payable to the person or entity as prescribed
37 | by the filing officer in an amount not less than the fee
38 | required by s. 99.092, unless the candidate obtained the
39 | required number of signatures on petitions pursuant to s.
40 | 99.095. The filing fee for a special district candidate is not
41 | required to be drawn upon the candidate's campaign account. If a
42 | candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the
43 | filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the
44 | candidate shall have until the end of qualifying to pay the fee
45 | with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign
46 | account. Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph
47 | shall disqualify the candidate.

48 | 2. The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must
49 | contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the
50 | ballot; the office sought, including the district or group

51 number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, which
52 must be verified under oath or affirmation pursuant to s.
53 92.525(1) (a).

54 3. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement
55 of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1) (b); or
56 if the candidate is running without party affiliation for a
57 partisan office, the written statement required by s.
58 99.021(1) (c).

59 4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign
60 treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by
61 s. 106.021.

62 5. The full and public disclosure or statement of
63 financial interests required by subsection (5). A public officer
64 who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of
65 financial interests with the Commission on Ethics or the
66 supervisor of elections prior to qualifying for office may file
67 a copy of that disclosure at the time of qualifying.

68 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
69 99.063, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

70 99.063 Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.—

71 (2) No later than 5 p.m. of the 9th day following the
72 primary election, each designated candidate for Lieutenant
73 Governor shall file with the Department of State:

74 (b) If the office sought is partisan, the written
75 statement of political party affiliation required by s.

HB 457

2021

76 | 99.021(1)(b); or if the office sought is without party
77 | affiliation, the written statement required by s. 99.021(1)(c).
78 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.