



supervisors of elections in advance of the qualifying period for validation and certification. A candidate must obtain 100 percent of the necessary certified signatures to qualify, or must pay the entire qualifying fee as described above.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill allows candidates in partisan races who obtain at least 50 percent of the necessary petition signatures to qualify by paying a pro rata share of the applicable qualifying fee. For example, a candidate who obtains 75 percent of the necessary petition signatures could qualify for office by paying 25 percent of the qualifying fee for the office sought.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

### V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

#### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

#### B. Private Sector Impact:

##### 1. Revenues

##### a. Recurring

Political Parties: There will likely be a slight decrease in the amount of revenue to the state executive committees of political parties, especially the major political parties that receive a rebate of the bulk of candidate *qualifying fees* paid to the Department of State.<sup>4</sup> *Overall, the impact is expected to be minimal.* The precise impact, however, is indeterminate and will vary with the number and type of

<sup>4</sup> All political parties receive 100% of the political party assessment, equal to 2 percent of the offices sought by its partisan candidates. *Section 99.103, F.S.* In addition, the major political parties also receive a rebate of 85 percent of the 3 percent filing fee paid by its candidates, with the remaining 15 percent going to the state's general revenue fund. There is no rebate of filing fees to the minor political parties.

offices sought during an election cycle, the number and partisan affiliation of candidates, as well as the number of candidates seeking to qualify by the new hybrid petition method.

b. Non-Recurring

None.

2. Expenditures

a. Recurring

None.

b. Non-Recurring

Candidates: Senate Bill 342 will reduce the cost of qualifying for candidates obtaining more than 50 percent of the required petition signatures but fall short of the number needed to qualify. The precise impact is indeterminate and will vary with the number and type of offices sought during an election cycle, as well as the number of candidates seeking to qualify by the new hybrid petition method.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

1. Revenues

a. Recurring

There will likely be a slight decrease to the General Revenue fund and the Election Commission Trust Fund, both of which receive a portion of candidate qualifying fees.<sup>5</sup> *Overall, the impact is expected to be minimal.* The precise impact, however, is indeterminate and will vary with the number and type of offices sought during an election cycle, the number and partisan affiliation of candidates, as well as the number of candidates seeking to qualify by the new hybrid petition method.

b. Non-Recurring

None.

2. Expenditures

a. Recurring

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<sup>5</sup> Fifteen percent of the filing fees of major party candidates and 100 percent of the filing fees for minor party and “no party affiliation” candidates are deposited in the General Revenue fund. The 1 percent election assessment component of the qualifying fee is deposited in the Election Commission Trust Fund.

None.

b. Non-Recurring

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:**

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. **Amendments:**

None.