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## DIGEST

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HB 342 Original

2025 Regular Session

Bayham

**Abstract:** Increases qualifying fees for certain candidates, provides for the number of required signatures for nominating petitions of candidates running for United States senate and representative in congress, and provides for who can sign a nominating petition.

Present law (Act No. 1 of the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana) establishes closed party primary voting for certain offices, beginning Jan. 1, 2026. Provides the requirements for who can sign a nominating petition. Further provides that a candidate in a party primary election may only be nominated by a person who is affiliated with the same recognized political party, who is qualified to vote on the office he seeks, and who signs a nominating petition for him no more than 120 days before the qualifying period opens for candidates in the party primary election.

Proposed law adds that a person who is not affiliated with a political party may sign the nominating petition. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:464(B)) provides for the amount of qualifying fees for candidates in primary elections. Provides for the following fees for state candidates:

- (1) For governor: \$750.
- (2) For justice of the supreme court, judge of a court of appeal, and member of the public service commission: \$450.
- (3) For all other state candidates: \$600.

Proposed law provides for the following qualifying fees:

- (1) Increases the fee for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and commissioner of insurance to \$5,000.
- (2) Increases the fee for United States senator and representative in congress to \$2,500.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:465(C)) provides for the number of signatures required for a nominating petition. Provides that the number of qualified voters who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for an office voted on throughout the state is 5,000. Further provides that no less than

500 of the signatures shall be from each congressional district into which the state is divided.

Proposed law provides that the number of signatures required for a nominating petition for a candidate for an office voted on throughout the state is 2,500 instead of 5,000. Further provides that no less than 250 of the signatures shall be from each congressional district into which the state is divided instead of 500.

Effective in part when Act No. 1 of the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana becomes effective.

Effective in part upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 410.5(A) and 464(B)(1) and 465(C)(1))