

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 648

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU AND SENATORS CARTER, FESI, JENKINS,
KLEINPETER, MIGUEZ, MILLER, REESE, SELDERS, AND WOMACK

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) and to enact R.S. 18:454 and
3 464(B)(5), relative to candidate qualifying fees for an election; to provide for the
4 imposition of a candidate qualifying fee for certain candidates; to provide for the
5 dedication of certain revenues from the collection of a candidate qualifying fee; to
6 establish the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund as a special fund in the state treasury;
7 to provide for the transfer, deposit, and use of monies in the Campaign Sign
8 Recycling Fund; to provide for the powers and duties of the state treasurer; to
9 provide for the powers and duties of the secretary of state; to provide for a prior Act
10 of the Legislature of Louisiana; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for
11 related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and
14 R.S. 18:454 and 464(B)(5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §454. Campaign Sign Recycling Fund

16 A. There is hereby established in the state treasury, as a special fund, the
17 Campaign Sign Recycling Fund, hereinafter referred to in this Section as the "fund".

18 B.(1) After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund
19 as provided in Article VII, Section (9)(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the
20 treasurer shall deposit into the fund the following:

21 (a) Monies collected from candidate qualifying fees for an election pursuant
22 to R.S. 18:464(B)(5).

1 by the payment of a qualifying fee of five hundred dollars. Such qualifying fee shall
 2 be paid in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:464(A). The candidate shall also
 3 pay a qualifying fee pursuant to R.S. 18:464(B)(5). The period for filing such
 4 qualifying fee shall begin on the third Tuesday in July and shall end at 4:30 p.m. on
 5 the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a
 6 presidential election is to be held. Each qualifying fee shall be accompanied by the
 7 notice of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying
 8 his acceptance of the nomination. A candidate for presidential elector who is not
 9 affiliated with a recognized political party may be registered to vote with or without
 10 a declaration of party affiliation.

11 * * *

12 §1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

13 A. Candidates for presidential nominee shall qualify in accordance with
 14 procedures established by the party. Prior to qualification as a candidate of a
 15 political party for presidential nominee, a person shall pay a qualifying fee of seven
 16 hundred fifty dollars and any additional ~~fee fees~~ as authorized by ~~R.S. 18:464(C)~~
 17 R.S. 18:464(B)(5) and (C) or shall have obtained a nominating petition, bearing the
 18 handwritten signatures of no less than one thousand registered voters affiliated with
 19 the party from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. If
 20 the candidate is qualifying by paying a fee, the fee shall be paid in cash, by certified
 21 or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank or credit union, by United States
 22 postal money order, or by a money order issued by a state or national bank or credit
 23 union.

24 * * *

25 Section 2. R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to
 26 read as follows:

27 §1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party;
 28 nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

29 A. A slate of candidates for presidential elector who are not affiliated with
 30 a recognized political party may be nominated by nominating petition or may qualify

1 by the payment of a qualifying fee of one thousand dollars. Such qualifying fee shall
 2 be paid in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:464(A). The candidate shall also
 3 pay a qualifying fee pursuant to R.S. 18:464(B)(5). The period for filing such
 4 qualifying fee shall begin on the third Tuesday in July and shall end at 4:30 p.m. on
 5 the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a
 6 presidential election is to be held. Each qualifying fee shall be accompanied by the
 7 notice of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying
 8 his acceptance of the nomination. A candidate for presidential elector who is not
 9 affiliated with a recognized political party may be registered to vote with or without
 10 a declaration of party affiliation.

11 * * *

12 §1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

13 A. Candidates for presidential nominee shall qualify in accordance with
 14 procedures established by the party. Prior to qualification as a candidate of a
 15 political party for presidential nominee, a person shall pay a qualifying fee of one
 16 thousand dollars and any additional ~~fee~~ fees as authorized by ~~R.S. 18:464(C)~~ R.S.
 17 18:464(B)(5) and (C) or shall have obtained a nominating petition, bearing the
 18 handwritten signatures of no less than one thousand registered voters affiliated with
 19 the party from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. If
 20 the candidate is qualifying by paying a fee, the fee shall be paid in cash, by certified
 21 or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank or credit union, by United States
 22 postal money order, or by a money order issued by a state or national bank or credit
 23 union.

24 * * *

25 Section 3(A). R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) as amended and reenacted in Section
 26 2 of this Act shall supercede R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) as amended and reenacted in
 27 Act No. 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.

28 (B) The additional qualifying fee provided for in this Act shall be required of
 29 candidates qualifying on and after August 1, 2025.

1 Section 4.(A) This Section and Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall become effective
 2 upon signature of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration
 3 of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article
 4 III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and
 5 subsequently approved by the legislature, this Section and Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall
 6 become effective on the day following such approval.

7 (B) The provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall become effective when Act 1 of the
 8 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature becomes effective.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____