

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 648

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Increases candidate qualifying fees and dedicates the monies to the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund

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:

1 §1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party;
2 nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

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

15 * * *

16 §1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

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

28 * * *

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

3 §1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party;
4 nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

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

17 * * *

18 §1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

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

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of state to promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of a program to recycle political campaign signs.

Effective in part upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action; effective in part Jan. 1, 2026 (see Act No. 1 of the 2024 1st E.S.).

(Amends R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A); Adds R.S. 18:454 and 464(B)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Exempt candidates for school board and political party committee from the requirement to pay the additional qualifying fee.
2. Provide for the additional qualifying fee to be paid by candidates qualifying on and after Aug. 1, 2025.