

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 648

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

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§454. Campaign Sign Recycling Fund

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

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

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

1 **(b) Monies designated for the fund and received by the state treasurer from**
 2 **donations, gifts, grants, appropriations, or other revenue.**

3 **(2) Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the**
 4 **state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be**
 5 **deposited into the state general fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the**
 6 **fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.**

7 **C.(1) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the secretary of state for**
 8 **the recycling of political campaign signs.**

9 **(2) The secretary of state shall promulgate rules in accordance with the**
 10 **Administrative Procedure Act necessary for implementation and administration of**
 11 **the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.**

12 * * *

13 §464. Qualifying fees; additional fees imposed by political party committees;
 14 financial statements

15 * * *

16 B. Amount of qualifying fees. The qualifying fees for candidates in primary
 17 elections are:

18 * * *

19 **(5) All candidates other than candidates for membership on the state central**
 20 **committee or parish executive committee of a political party, in addition to the**
 21 **qualifying fees established pursuant to Paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Subsection,**
 22 **shall pay an additional qualifying fee of twenty-five dollars. Notwithstanding any**
 23 **provision of law to the contrary, the additional fee paid pursuant to the provisions of**
 24 **this Paragraph shall be deposited into the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund as**
 25 **established in R.S. 18:454.**

26 * * *

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 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: _____