

HB 2428 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Parrish

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 05/18/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits candidate to pay fee *and* submit signature petition, rather than choose, to reserve space in voters' pamphlet. Requires Secretary of State (SOS) to return fee if required number of signatures is verified, and retain fee if petition is not verified.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Time between filing deadlines
- Difficulties candidates face gathering signatures
- Process of counting and verifying signatures
- Impact of on campaign and candidate when not in voters' pamphlet

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

A candidate running for office may file a portrait and statement of the reasons they should be nominated or elected in the voters' pamphlet for a primary or general election. The candidate has the option of paying the designated voters' pamphlet fee *or* collecting a specific number of signatures from active voters in the district in which they are running. Candidates for a statewide office may pay a fee of \$3,000 to the Secretary of State or submit a petition with 500 signatures; candidates for state Senator or state Representative can either pay a \$750 fee or submit a petition with 200 signatures; and any candidate for nomination or election to any office other than President or Vice President, or United States Senator or Representative, may pay a \$600 fee or submit a petition with 200 signatures. Candidates must file statements for a primary election voters' pamphlet no sooner than the 120th day and not later than the 68th day before the relevant election; and for general elections, statements and portraits must be filed no sooner than the 120th day and not later than the 70th day before the election. Currently, if a candidate files a petition in lieu of paying the fee, and it is determined that they do not have the required number of active voters' signatures after the filing deadline has passed, they are not allowed to pay the fee instead. As a result, the candidate is excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

House Bill 2428-A allows a candidate to do both: pay the fee and submit a signature petition, rather than choose one or the other, in order to reserve space in a voters' pamphlet. If the petition is verified, the fee is returned and the candidate will appear in the pamphlet; if the petition turns out to be insufficient, the fee is retained and the candidate will still appear in the pamphlet.