

SB165 INTRODUCED



1 SB165
2 YMEKWN6-1
3 By Senator Jones
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 14-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the governing body of a
6 Class 4 municipality with a mayor-council form of
7 government has the authority to set, by ordinance,
8 qualification fees for candidates participating in its
9 municipal elections.

10 This bill would allow the governing body of a
11 Class 4 municipality to set qualification fees for
12 mayoral candidates at \$500 and qualification fees for
13 council member and municipal board of education member
14 candidates at \$250.

15 Under existing law, an indigent candidate is
16 exempt from paying qualification fees upon filing a
17 statement signed by three other people verifying the
18 indigent candidate cannot afford to pay the
19 qualification fees.

20 This bill would require indigent candidates to
21 provide documentation showing that their gross income
22 does not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty
23 level in order to receive an exemption from
24 qualification fees.

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 A BILL
 TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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31 Relating to elections; to amend Section 11-43B-4, Code
32 of Alabama 1975; to further provide for qualification fees for
33 municipal elections in certain Class 4 municipalities; to
34 require indigent candidates to submit certain documentation to
35 qualify for fee exemptions.

36 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

37 Section 1. Section 11-43B-4, Code of Alabama 1975, is
38 amended to read as follows:

39 "§11-43B-4

40 (a) The initial elections provided for ~~herein in this~~
41 chapter, and all subsequent elections, shall be conducted, the
42 vote canvassed, the results declared, and those elected assume
43 the duties of their offices in the same manner as provided by
44 the general law of the state pertaining to municipal elections
45 for mayor-council forms of government, except as otherwise
46 provided by state statute.

47 (b) (1) The mayor shall be elected by the whole of the
48 electors of the city and shall have been a resident of the
49 city for at least 90 days prior to his or her election.

50 (2) Council members shall be elected by the electors of
51 the district which they represent, and shall have been
52 residents of the district which they represent for at least 90
53 days prior to their election.

54 (c) (1) Any ~~person~~ individual desiring to become a
55 candidate for mayor, ~~or~~ council member, or member of the
56 municipal board of education ~~must~~, at the time of filing a

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57 statement of candidacy, shall pay to the city clerk the
58 qualifying fee to be set by ordinance. Notwithstanding Section
59 11-46-2, the qualifying fee for mayoral candidates shall be
60 five hundred dollars (\$500), and the qualifying fee for
61 council member and municipal board of education member
62 candidates shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

63 (2) If any~~person~~ individual desiring to become a
64 candidate for mayor, or council member, or member of the
65 municipal board of education is financially unable to pay the
66 filing fee, then that~~person~~ individual shall be exempted from
67 the fee upon attesting that the individual has a gross income
68 that does not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level
69 and filing with the city clerk a copy of the individual's most
70 recent federal tax return.~~verified statements from three city~~
71 ~~electors that said candidate is indigent and not financially~~
72 ~~capable of paying the fee.~~

73 (d) Within 30 days after the election, every candidate
74 shall file with the city clerk a sworn statement of all
75 election campaign expenses and of each~~person~~ individual,
76 firm, or corporation which has contributed funds, itemized for
77 all expenditures and contributions of one hundred dollars
78 (\$100.00) or more."

79 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately.