

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R8271 GGS-D

S.B. 1199
By: Barrientos
Jurisprudence
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, a prospective primary election candidate for certain judicial offices in a county of less than 850,000 residents is only required to fill out an application and pay a filing fee by a certain deadline. Candidates who are not seriously intending to seek the office can easily get on the ballot and cause extra expenditures by serious candidates. In more populated counties, a candidate is additionally required to submit a petition signed by at least 250 supporters of the candidacy. As proposed, S.B. 1199 reduces the population of a county which requires the petition from 850,000 to 725,000.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 172.021(e), Election Code, to require a candidate for an office specified by Section 172.024(a)(8), (10), or (12), or for justice of the peace in a county with a population of more than 725,000, rather than 850,000, who chooses to pay the filing fee to also accompany the application with a petition that complies with the requirements prescribed for the petition authorized by this section, except that the minimum number of signatures that must appear on the petition required by this subsection is 250.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 172.024(a), Election Code, to provide that the filing fee for a candidate for nomination in the general primary election for chief justice or justice of a court of appeals that serves a court of appeals district in which a county with a population of more than 725,000, rather than 850,000, is wholly or partly situated is \$2,000. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.