

HOUSE BILL NO. 4285

February 23, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Bollin, Sabo, Koleszar, O'Neal, Calley and Hertel and referred to the Committee on Elections and Ethics.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending section 349 (MCL 168.349), as amended by 2018 PA 654.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 349. (1) To obtain the printing of the name of ~~a person~~
2 **an individual** as a candidate for nomination by a political party
3 for a township office under the particular party heading upon the
4 official primary ballots, there must be filed with the township
5 clerk nominating petitions signed by a number of qualified and

1 registered electors residing within the township as determined
2 under section 544f. Nominating petitions must be in the form
3 prescribed in section 544c. The township clerk shall receive
4 nominating petitions up to 4 p.m. of the fifteenth Tuesday before
5 the August primary.

6 (2) To obtain the printing of the name of a candidate of a
7 political party under the particular party's heading upon the
8 primary election ballots in the various voting precincts of the
9 township, there may be filed by the candidate, in lieu of filing
10 nominating petitions, a **nonrefundable** filing fee of \$100.00 to be
11 paid to the township clerk. Payment of the fee and certification of
12 the candidate's name paying the fee are governed by the same
13 provisions as in the case of nominating petitions. The fee must be
14 deposited in the general fund of the township and must be ~~refunded~~
15 ~~to candidates who are nominated and to an equal number of~~
16 ~~candidates who receive the next highest number of votes in the~~
17 ~~primary election. If 2 or more candidates tie in having the lowest~~
18 ~~number of votes allowing a refund, the sum of \$100.00 must be~~
19 ~~divided among them. The deposits of all other defeated candidates,~~
20 ~~as well as the deposits of candidates who withdraw or are~~
21 ~~disqualified, are forfeited and the candidates must be notified of~~
22 ~~the forfeiture. Deposits forfeited under this section must be paid~~
23 ~~into and credited to the general fund of the township.~~**used only for**
24 **the purchase and maintenance of voting equipment.**

25 (3) Within 4 days after the last day for filing nominating
26 petitions or a filing fee, the township clerk shall deliver to the
27 county clerk a list setting forth the name, address, and political
28 affiliation and office sought of each candidate who has qualified
29 for a position on the primary ballot.