

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX

TITLE: Life Gets Tough Act

AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson

SPONSOR(S):

CHAPTER 730 – THE ELECTION QUALIFICATION ACT (2000-141, 2001-111, 2001-112, 2001-141, 2002-144, 2004-127, 2005-137, 2006-113, 2006-124, 2006-129, 2007-141, 2008-111, 2009-107, Board of Trustees ruling, 2010-100, 2010-103, 2011-100, 2011-107, 2012-101, 2012-107, 2014-114, 2014-120, 2020-1024, 2020- 1043, 2021-109, 2022-104, 2023-107)

730.1 This subsection, from 730.001 to 739.999, shall be known as “The Election Qualification Act”

731.0 Anyone group who wishes to qualify as a candidate for Student Government office must comply with the provisions of the Student Government Election Code and must adhere to the policies and rules set forth by the Supervisor of Elections and the Elections Commission.

732.0 Candidates for President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Student Body shall each meet the following qualifications:

(a) Registered as a full-time student;

i. If a candidate is to have (an) approved medical withdrawal(s) that no longer qualifies them as a registered full-time student, the qualifications pursuant to 732.0 (a) shall be deemed void.

(b) Undergraduate students will retain a minimum overall 2.5 Overall Grade Point Average;

(c) Graduate students will retain a minimum 3.0 Overall Grade Point Average or at least the minimum Overall Grade Point Average required to remain in good standing with the graduate or professional program in which they are enrolled, and otherwise be in good academic standing;

(d) Free of conduct probation;

(e) Free from any delinquent financial obligations to the University, unless excused through the University's appeal process, by 5:00 PM on the second Wednesday preceding the Spring and Fall General Elections;

(f) Successfully completed at least 3 semesters, excluding summers, at the University of Florida;

(g) Not have been removed from a Student Government office through impeachment.

732.1 In the event a candidate for President, Vice President, or Treasurer is scheduled to graduate during the term of office sought, they shall be allowed on the ballot as long as they fully meet all of the requirements of Section 732.0, S.B.S..

a) If a candidate is to have (an) approved medical withdrawal(s) that no longer qualifies them as a registered full-time student, the qualifications pursuant to 732.0 (a) shall be deemed void.

732.11 Candidates for President and Vice President shall run on a joint ticket and shall submit a single supporting petition as described in Section 732.12, S.B.S. in order to sustain their candidacy. Candidates for Treasurer shall also submit a supporting petition in order to sustain their candidacy.

732.12 A supporting petition shall bear in blue or black ink the names, student identification numbers, and signatures of currently registered University of Florida students totaling not less than 15% of the number of votes cast for the singular candidate who received the most votes in the last presidential election, excluding run-offs, or 500 signatures, whichever is less. The text of the supporting petition shall be to the effect that: "We the undersigned students at the University of Florida, do hereby approve the candidacy of for President of the Student Body and of for Vice President of the Student Body, as (candidates of the party) (independent candidates)." The petition for Treasurer candidates shall be to the effect that: "We the undersigned students at the University of Florida, do hereby approve the candidacy of

for Treasurer of the Student Body and as (candidate of the party) (independent candidate)." The text of the supporting petition shall accurately reflect the party affiliation of the candidates.

732.13 The supporting petition must be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections no later than 5:00 P.M. on the last day of qualifying or the Supervisor of Elections shall disqualify the candidates.

732.14 Candidates for President and Vice President are considered as one candidate under a joint candidacy.

732.141 A political party may replace a candidate for President or Vice President with another candidate if the replacement candidate qualifies for the position in question and has complied with the requirements and deadlines of 745.0.

732.15 Student Government Advising & Operations staff will verify that individuals who have signed a petition in accordance with Section 732.12, S.B.S. are currently registered University of Florida students.

732.151 Student Government Advising & Operations staff need only verify enough signatures to ensure that the petition has met the minimum threshold in Section 732.12, S.B.S..

732.2 Candidates for Student Senate shall meet the following qualifications:

(a) Registered as a full-time student;

i. If a candidate is to have (an) approved medical withdrawal(s) that no longer qualifies them as a registered full-time student, the qualifications pursuant to 732.0 (a) shall be deemed void.

(b) Undergraduate students will retain a minimum overall 2.5 Overall Grade Point Average;

(c) Graduate students will retain a minimum 3.0 Overall Grade Point Average or at least the minimum Overall Grade Point Average required to

remain in good standing with the graduate or professional program in which they are enrolled, and otherwise be in good academic standing;

(d) Free of conduct probation;

(e) Free from any delinquent financial obligations to the University, unless excused through the University's appeal process, by 5:00 PM on the second Wednesday preceding the Spring and Fall General Elections;

(f) Resident of their living area or enrolled in the college which they seek to represent;

(g) Not previously removed from any Student Government office through the impeachment process.

732.3 Candidates for Student Senate district seats must provide one of the following to qualify for the district they seek to represent:

(a) Certified Mail delivered by postal service

(b) Alachua County voter registration card

(c) Original copy of lease

(d) Original copy of utility bill or cable bill prior to qualifying

(e) Original copy of promissory note or lease from fraternity or sorority house

(f) Original copy of homeowner's insurance

(g) Original copy of warranty deed

732.31 Candidates for the Student Senate District E seat that live outside of Alachua County must provide additional proof that they physically reside the majority of their time within the district they seek to represent at the time of qualification.

732.32 Candidates for Student Senate district seats must sign a statement attesting to the occupancy of their physical residence for the district they seek to represent.

732.4 All candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Student Body shall upon qualifying with the Supervisor of Elections certify all of the following information:

- (a) Name;
- (b) Occupancy of physical residence;
- (c) Candidate possesses all qualifications required to be a candidate for the office sought;
- (d) Candidate has been enrolled as a student at the University of Florida for at least three (3) semesters, excluding summers;
- (e) Candidate is not under disqualification from serving that office;
- (f) Whether the candidate is an independent candidate or is affiliated with a political party;
- (g) If candidate is affiliated with a political party, the name of the political party;
- (h) The name of the campaign manager or party president, if any;
- (i) The name of the campaign treasurer;
- (j) The candidate is aware of the provisions of the Student Government Election Code and agrees to be bound by them.

732.5 All Candidates for election under the Constitution and laws of the Student Body shall be members of the constituencies, classes, or residence areas from which they seek to represent, and qualified to vote in such constituencies, classes, or residence areas. A candidate's classification shall be determined by the records of the University Registrar's Office, or supported by a sworn affidavit of the candidate. If the Elections Commission discovers that a winning candidate was not qualified because of an error in the Registrar's records then the Elections Commission may, by majority vote, recommend the Supreme Court declare the office vacant. The office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Student Senate,

unless the office is that of the Student Body President, Vice President, Treasurer, whereas the office shall be subject to general elections.

Proviso: This bill of law shall be effective immediately upon its passage.