

House Bill No. 755

An act relating to the City of Lake Butler, Union County; amending chapter 63-1499, Laws of Florida, as amended; providing for numbered commission seats; providing for qualifications for office; providing for filling of seat when only one candidate qualifies; revising the qualifying period; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Sections 30 and 31 of chapter 63-1499, Laws of Florida, as amended by chapter 99-477, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

Section 30. Election of city commission; numbered seats; election registration officer.—

(a) The regular municipal election of the city shall be held on the fourth Tuesday in June of each even numbered year, beginning in 1982. In order that terms of city commission members may be staggered, the two members elected in the election held in June of 1981 shall serve for terms of 3 years and the three members elected in the election held in June of 1982 shall serve for terms of 4 years. Thereafter, all members shall serve terms of 4 years.

(b) Each commission seat shall be designated with an assigned number, 1 through 5, and qualified for according to the following procedure:

(1) In the election years that two member seats are scheduled for election, the seats shall be numbered 1 and 2.

(2) In the election years that three member seats are scheduled for election, the seats shall be numbered 3, 4, and 5.

(3) Any individual desiring to qualify for election as a city commissioner shall be required to qualify as designated in section 31.

(4) Any individual desiring to qualify for election as a city commissioner shall so designate which seat he or she wishes to occupy at the time of qualifying as a candidate for election to the city commission.

(5) If no more than one individual qualifies as a candidate for a seat scheduled for election, an election will not be required and the sole qualifying candidate shall be declared elected following the close of the official qualifying period.

(c) The city commission shall appoint the election registration officer of the City of Lake Butler at least 30 days prior to any city election. The city commission may elect to contract elections supervision to the county elections supervisor when deemed to be in the best interest of the city.

Section 31. Qualifications of candidate.—Any person who is a resident of the city and has been resident for at least 6 months and has the qualifica-

tions of an elector therein may become a candidate for election to the office of the city commissioner by petition of twenty (20) qualified electors of the city and filing with the election registration officer a qualifying fee as prescribed by ordinance and by taking and subscribing to an oath or affirmation in compliance with current state election laws before the election registration officer. The qualifying period for candidates for city commission shall consist of a 5-day period, beginning at noon Monday and ending at noon on the following ~~through~~ Friday, as designated by the city commission and must occur not less than 30 ~~60~~ days prior to the scheduled election. The filing of necessary documents for qualifying as a candidate shall occur on these days during established hours at the office of the election registration officer.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 1, 2005.