

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Floor: WD 04/15/2013 08:01 PM

Senators Smith, Sachs, Braynon, Soto, Montford, Joyner, Ring, Margolis, Abruzzo, Bullard, Thompson, Clemens, Gibson, Hukill, and Sobel moved the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 97.041, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 97.041 Qualifications to register or vote.-
- (1) (a) A person may become a registered voter only if that person:
  - 1. Is at least 18 years of age;
  - 2. Is a citizen of the United States;

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- 3. Is a legal resident of the State of Florida;
- 4. Is a legal resident of the county in which that person seeks to be registered; and
  - 5. Registers pursuant to the Florida Election Code.
- (b) A person who is otherwise qualified may preregister on or after that person's 16th birthday and may vote in any election occurring on or after that person's 18th birthday.
- (c) A person who has been convicted of a felony by any court of record and has served his or her sentence may preregister to vote and may vote in any election after his or her right to vote has been restored.
- (2) The following persons, who might be otherwise qualified, are not entitled to register or vote:
- (a) A person who has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in this or any other state and who has not had his or her right to vote restored pursuant to law is not entitled to register to vote.
- (b) A person who has been convicted of any felony by any court of record and who has not had his or her right to vote restored pursuant to law.
- Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 97.052, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 97.052 Uniform statewide voter registration application.-
- (2) The uniform statewide voter registration application must be designed to elicit the following information from the applicant:
  - (a) Last, first, and middle name, including any suffix.
  - (b) Date of birth.
  - (c) Address of legal residence.



- (d) Mailing address, if different.
  - (e) County of legal residence.
  - (f) Race or ethnicity that best describes the applicant:
  - 1. American Indian or Alaskan Native.
  - 2. Asian or Pacific Islander.
  - 3. Black, not Hispanic.
  - 4. White, not Hispanic.
  - 5. Hispanic.
  - (g) State or country of birth.
  - (h) Sex.

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- (i) Party affiliation.
- (j) Whether the applicant needs assistance in voting.
- (k) Name and address where last registered.
- (1) Last four digits of the applicant's social security number.
- (m) Florida driver driver's license number or the identification number from a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051.
- (n) An indication, if applicable, that the applicant has not been issued a Florida driver driver's license, a Florida identification card, or a social security number.
  - (o) Telephone number (optional).
- (p) Signature of applicant under penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011, by which the person subscribes to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051, and swears or affirms that the information contained in the registration application is true.
- (q) Whether the application is being used for initial registration, to update a voter registration record, or to

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request a replacement voter information card.

- (r) Whether the applicant is a citizen of the United States by asking the question "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and providing boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant is or is not a citizen of the United States.
- (s) Whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony, and, if convicted, has completed his or her sentence had his or her civil rights restored by including the statement "I affirm I am not a convicted felon, or, if I am, I have completed my sentence my rights relating to voting have been restored." and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.
- (t) Whether the applicant has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored by including the statement "I affirm I have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, or, if I have, my competency has been restored." and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.

The registration application must be in plain language and designed so that convicted felons whose civil rights have been restored and persons who have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated and have had their voting rights restored are not required to reveal their prior conviction or adjudication. In addition, the registration application must indicate that a convicted felon who has completed his or her sentence is entitled to preregister to vote and may vote in any election

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after his or her right to vote has been restored.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 97.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.
- (5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if it contains the following information necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041, including:
  - 1. The applicant's name.
  - 2. The applicant's legal residence address.
  - 3. The applicant's date of birth.
- 4. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant is a citizen of the United States.
- 5.a. The applicant's current and valid Florida driver driver's license number or the identification number from a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or
- b. If the applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver driver's license or a Florida identification card, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

In case an applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver driver's license, Florida identification card, or social security number, the applicant shall affirm this fact in the manner prescribed in the uniform statewide voter registration application.

6. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has completed his or her sentence has had his or her civil rights restored.

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- 7. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored.
- 8. The original signature or a digital signature transmitted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of the applicant swearing or affirming under the penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the information contained in the registration application is true and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051.

Section 4. Section 97.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 97.055 Registration books; when closed for an election.-
- (1) (a) The registration books must be closed on the 5th 29th day before each election and must remain closed until after that election. If an election is called and there are fewer than  $5 \frac{29}{2}$  days before that election, the registration books must be closed immediately.
- (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), when the registration books are closed for an election, updates to a voter's name, address, and signature pursuant to ss. 98.077 and 101.045 shall be the only changes permitted for purposes of the upcoming election. New voter registration applications must be accepted but only for the purpose of subsequent elections.
- (c) When the registration books are closed for an upcoming election, an update or change to a voter's party affiliation made pursuant to s. 97.1031 shall be permitted for that upcoming election unless such election is for the purpose of nominating a

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political party nominee, in which case the update or change shall be permitted only for the purpose of subsequent elections.

(2) In computing the 5-day <del>29-day</del> period for the closing of the registration books, the day of the election is excluded and all other days are included. If the 5th 29th day preceding an election falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, the registration books must be closed on the next day that is not a Sunday or a legal holiday.

Section 5. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 98.045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 98.045 Administration of voter registration.-

- (1) ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT.—The supervisor must ensure that any eligible applicant for voter registration is registered to vote and that each application for voter registration is processed in accordance with law. The supervisor shall determine whether a voter registration applicant is ineligible based on any of the following:
- (a) The failure to complete a voter registration application as specified in s. 97.053.
  - (b) The applicant is deceased.
- (c) The applicant has been convicted of a felony for which his or her civil rights have not been restored.
- (c) (d) The applicant has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to the right to vote and such right has not been restored.
- (d) (e) The applicant does not meet the age requirement pursuant to s. 97.041.
  - (e) (f) The applicant is not a United States citizen.
  - $(f) \frac{(g)}{(g)}$  The applicant is a fictitious person.

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- (g) (h) The applicant has provided an address of legal residence that is not his or her legal residence.
- (h) (i) The applicant has provided a driver driver's license number, Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of a social security number that is not verifiable by the department.
  - (2) REMOVAL OF REGISTERED VOTERS.-
- (a) Once a voter is registered, the name of that voter may not be removed from the statewide voter registration system except at the written request of the voter, by reason of the voter's conviction of a felony or adjudication as mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, by death of the voter, or pursuant to a registration list maintenance activity conducted pursuant to s. 98.065 or s. 98.075. However, a convicted felon who has served his or her sentence and has preregistered pursuant to s. 97.041(1)(c) may not be removed from the statewide voter registration system.

Section 6. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 98.075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 98.075 Registration records maintenance activities; ineligibility determinations.-
- (5) FELONY CONVICTION. The department shall identify those registered voters who have been convicted of a felony and whose rights have not been restored by comparing information received from, but not limited to, a clerk of the circuit court, the Board of Executive Clemency, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Law Enforcement, or a United States Attorney's Office, as provided in s. 98.093. The department shall review such information and make an initial determination as to whether

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the information is credible and reliable. If the department determines that the information is credible and reliable, the department shall notify the supervisor and provide a copy of the supporting documentation indicating the potential ineligibility of the voter to be registered. Upon receipt of the notice that the department has made a determination of initial credibility and reliability, the supervisor shall adhere to the procedures set forth in subsection (7) prior to the removal of a registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

(6) OTHER BASES FOR INELIGIBILITY.—If the department or supervisor receives information from sources other than those identified in subsections (2)-(5) that a registered voter is ineligible because he or she is deceased, adjudicated a convicted felon without having had his or her civil rights restored, adjudicated mentally incapacitated without having had his or her voting rights restored, does not meet the age requirement pursuant to s. 97.041, is not a United States citizen, is a fictitious person, or has listed a residence that is not his or her legal residence, the supervisor must adhere to the procedures set forth in subsection (7) before prior to the removal of a registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system. However, a convicted felon who has served his or her sentence and has preregistered pursuant to s. 97.041(1)(c) may not be removed from the statewide voter registration system.

Section 7. Section 100.032, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

100.032 Election preparation report; general election.—Each supervisor of elections must submit a report to the Secretary of

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State at least 3 months before a general election which outlines preparations for the upcoming general election. The report must include, at a minimum, the following elements: the anticipated staffing levels during the early voting period, on election day, and after election day; and the anticipated amount of automatic tabulating equipment at each early voting site and polling place.

Section 8. Section 101.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.045 Electors must be registered in precinct; provisions for change of residence or name. -

- (1) A person may is not permitted to vote in any election precinct or district other than the one in which the person has his or her legal residence and in which the person is registered. However, a person temporarily residing outside the county must shall be registered in the precinct in which the main office of the supervisor, as designated by the supervisor, is located if when the person has no permanent address in the county and if it is the person's intention to remain a resident of this state Florida and of the county in which he or she is registered to vote. Such persons who are registered in the precinct in which the main office of the supervisor, as designated by the supervisor, is located and who are residing outside the county with no permanent address in the county are shall not be registered electors of a municipality and therefore may not shall not be permitted to vote in any municipal election.
- (2)(a) An elector who moves from the precinct in which the elector is registered may be permitted to vote in the precinct



to which he or she has moved his or her legal residence, if  $\frac{1}{1}$ change of residence is within the same county and the elector completes an affirmation in substantially the following form:

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# Change of Legal Residence of Registered Voter

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Under penalties for false swearing, I, ... (Name of voter)..., swear (or affirm) that the former address of my legal residence was ... (Address of legal residence) ... in the municipality of ...., in .... County, Florida, and I was registered to vote in the .... precinct of .... County, Florida; that I have not voted in the precinct of my former registration in this election; that I now reside at ... (Address of legal residence) ... in the Municipality of ...., in .... County, Florida, and am therefore eligible to vote in the .... precinct of .... County, Florida; and I further swear (or affirm) that I am otherwise legally registered and entitled to vote.

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... (Signature of voter whose address of legal residence has changed) ...

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(b) Except for an active uniformed services voter or a member of his or her family, an elector whose change of address is from outside the county may not change his or her legal residence at the polling place and vote a regular ballot; however, such elector is entitled to vote a provisional ballot.

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(b) (c) An elector whose name changes because of marriage or other legal process may  $\frac{be}{r}$  permitted to vote if the elector



302	provided such elector completes an affirmation in substantially
303	the following form:
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305	Change of Name of Registered
306	Voter
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308	Under penalties for false swearing, I, (New name of
309	voter), swear (or affirm) that my name has been changed
310	because of marriage or other legal process. My former name and
311	address of legal residence appear on the registration records of
312	precinct as follows:
313	Name
314	Address
315	Municipality
316	County
317	Florida, Zip
318	My present name and address of legal residence are as follows:
319	Name
320	Address
321	Municipality
322	County
323	Florida, Zip
324	and I further swear (or affirm) that I am otherwise legally
325	registered and entitled to vote.
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327	(Signature of voter whose name has changed)
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329	(c)(d) Instead of the affirmation contained in paragraph
330	(a) or paragraph (b) (c), an elector may complete a voter

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registration application that indicates the change of name or change of address of legal residence.

(d) (e) Such affirmation or application, when completed and presented at the precinct in which such elector is entitled to vote, and upon verification of the elector's registration, entitles shall entitle such elector to vote as provided in this subsection. If the elector's eligibility to vote cannot be determined, he or she is <del>shall be</del> entitled to vote a provisional ballot, subject to the requirements and procedures in s. 101.048. Upon receipt of an affirmation or application certifying a change in address of legal residence or name, the supervisor shall as soon as practicable make the necessary changes in the statewide voter registration system as soon as practicable to indicate the change in address of legal residence or name of such elector.

Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 101.161, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.161 Referenda; ballots.-

(3) (a) Each joint resolution that proposes a constitutional amendment or revision shall include one or more ballot statements set forth in order of priority. Each ballot statement shall consist of a ballot title, by which the measure is commonly referred to or spoken of, not exceeding 15 words in length, and either a ballot summary that describes the chief purpose of the amendment or revision in clear and unambiguous language, or the full text of the amendment or revision. If a joint resolution that proposes a constitutional amendment or revision contains only one ballot statement, the ballot summary may not exceed 75 words in length. If a joint resolution that

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proposes a constitutional amendment or revision contains more than one ballot statement, no ballot summary may exceed 75 words in length.

- (b) The Department of State shall furnish a designating number pursuant to subsection (2) and the appropriate ballot statement to the supervisor of elections of each county. The ballot statement shall be printed on the ballot after the list of candidates, followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no," and shall be styled in such a manner that a "yes" vote will indicate approval of the amendment or revision and a "no" vote will indicate rejection.
- (c) (b) 1. Any action for a judicial determination that one or more ballot statements embodied in a joint resolution are defective must be commenced by filing a complaint or petition with the appropriate court within 30 days after the joint resolution is filed with the Secretary of State. The complaint or petition shall assert all grounds for challenge to each ballot statement. Any ground not asserted within 30 days after the joint resolution is filed with the Secretary of State is waived.
- 2. The court, including any appellate court, shall accord an action described in subparagraph 1. priority over other pending cases and render a decision as expeditiously as possible. If the court finds that all ballot statements embodied in a joint resolution are defective and further appeals are declined, abandoned, or exhausted, unless otherwise provided in the joint resolution, the Attorney General shall, within 10 days, prepare and submit to the Department of State a revised ballot title or ballot summary that corrects the deficiencies

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identified by the court, and the Department of State shall furnish a designating number and the revised ballot title or ballot summary to the supervisor of elections of each county for placement on the ballot. The revised ballot summary may not exceed 75 words in length. The court shall retain jurisdiction over challenges to a revised ballot title or ballot summary prepared by the Attorney General, and any challenge to a revised ballot title or ballot summary must be filed within 10 days after a revised ballot title or ballot summary is submitted to the Department of State.

3. A ballot statement that consists of the full text of an amendment or revision shall be presumed to be a clear and unambiguous statement of the substance and effect of the amendment or revision, providing fair notice to the electors of the content of the amendment or revision and sufficiently advising electors of the issue upon which they are to vote.

Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 101.5605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 101.5605 Examination and approval of equipment.
- (3) (a) Before the Department of State approves the electronic or electromechanical voting system, the person who submitted it for examination shall provide the department with the name, mailing address, and telephone number of a registered agent, which agent must have and continuously maintain an office in this state. Any change in the name, address, or telephone number of the registered agent shall promptly be made known to the department.
- (b) Before entering into a contract for the sale or lease of a voting system approved under this section to any county,

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the person entering into such contract shall provide the department with the name, mailing address, and telephone number of a registered agent, which agent must have and continuously maintain an office in this state. Any change in the name, address, or telephone number of the registered agent shall promptly be made known to the department.

- (c) The department's proof of delivery or attempted delivery to the last mailing address of the registered agent on file with the department at the time of delivery or attempted delivery is valid for all notice purposes.
- (d) Within 30 days after completing the examination and upon approval of any electronic or electromechanical voting system, the Department of State shall make and maintain a report on the system, together with a written or printed description and drawings and photographs clearly identifying the system and the operation thereof. As soon as practicable after such filing, the department shall send a notice of certification and, upon request, a copy of the report to the governing bodies of the respective counties of the state. Any voting system that does not receive the approval of the department may shall not be adopted for or used at any election.
- (e) (b) After a voting system has been approved by the Department of State, any change or improvement in the system is required to be approved by the department prior to the adoption of such change or improvement by any county. If any such change or improvement does not comply with the requirements of this act, the department shall suspend all sales of the equipment or system in the state until the equipment or system complies with the requirements of this act.

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Section 11. Section 101.56065, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

101.56065 Voting system defects; disclosure; investigations; penalties.-

- (1) For purposes of this section, the term:
- (a) "Defect" means:
- 1. Any failure, fault, or flaw in an electronic or electromechanical voting system approved pursuant to s. 101.5605 which results in nonconformance with the standards in a manner that affects the timeliness or accuracy of the casting or counting of ballots; or
- 2. Any failure or inability of the voting system manufacturer or vendor to make available or provide approved replacements of hardware or software to the counties that have purchased the approved voting system, the unavailability of which results in the system's nonconformance with the standards in a manner that affects the timeliness or accuracy of the casting or counting of ballots.
- (b) "Standards" refers to the requirements in ss. 101.5606 and 101.56062 under which a voting system was approved for use in the state.
- (c) "Vendor" means a person who submits or previously submitted a voting system that was approved by the Department of State in accordance with s. 101.5605, or a person who enters into a contract for the sale or lease of a voting system to any county, or that previously entered into such a contract that has not expired.
- (2) (a) No later than December 31, 2013, and, thereafter, on January 1 of every odd-numbered year, each vendor shall file a

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written disclosure with the department identifying any known defect in the voting system or the fact that there is no known defect, the effect of any defect on the operation and use of the approved voting system, and any known corrective measures to cure a defect, including, but not limited to, advisories and bulletins issued to system users.

- (b) Implementation of corrective measures approved by the department which enable a system to conform to the standards and ensure the timeliness and accuracy of the casting and counting of ballots constitutes a cure of a defect.
- (c) If a vendor becomes aware of the existence of a defect, he or she must file a new disclosure with the department as provided in paragraph (a) within 30 days after the date the vendor determined or reasonably should have determined that the defect existed.
- (d) If a vendor discloses to the department that a defect exists, the department may suspend all sales or leases of the voting system in the state and may suspend the use of the system in any election in the state. The department shall provide written notice of any such suspension to each affected vendor and supervisor of elections. If the department determines that the defect no longer exists, the department shall lift the suspension and provide written notice to each affected vendor and supervisor of elections.
- (e) If a vendor fails to file a required disclosure for a voting system previously approved by the department, that system may not be sold, leased, or used for elections in the state until it has been submitted for examination and approval and adopted for use pursuant to s. 101.5605. The department shall

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provide written notice to all supervisors of elections that the system is no longer approved.

- (3) (a) If the department has reasonable cause to believe a voting system approved pursuant to s. 101.5605 contains a defect either before, during, or after an election which has not been disclosed pursuant to subsection (2), the department may investigate whether the voting system has a defect.
- (b) The department may initiate an investigation pursuant to paragraph (a) on its own initiative or upon the written request of the supervisor of elections of a county that purchased or leased a voting system that contains the alleged defect.
- (c) Upon initiating an investigation, the department shall provide written notice to the vendor and all of the supervisors of elections.
- (4) (a) If the department determines by a preponderance of the evidence that a defect exists in the voting system, or that a vendor failed to timely disclose a defect pursuant to subsection (2), the department shall provide written notice to the affected vendor and supervisors of elections.
- (b) A vendor entitled to receive notice pursuant to paragraph (a) shall, within 10 days, file a written response to the department which:
- 1. Denies that the alleged defect exists or existed as alleged by the department or that the vendor failed to timely disclose a defect, and sets forth the reasons for such denial; or
- 2. Admits that the defect exists or existed as alleged by the department or that the vendor failed to timely disclose a



defect.

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- (c) If the defect has been cured, the vendor shall provide an explanation of how the defect was cured.
- (d) If the defect has not been cured, the vendor shall inform the department whether the defect can be cured and shall provide the department with a plan for curing the defect. If the defect can be cured, the department shall establish a timeframe within which to cure the defect.
- (5) If after receiving a response from the vendor, the department determines that a defect does not exist or has been cured within the timeframe established by the department, the department shall take no further action.
- (6) If the department determines that a vendor failed to timely disclose a defect, that a defect exists and a vendor has not filed a written response or has failed to cure within the timeframe established by the department, or that the defect cannot be cured, the department shall impose a civil penalty of \$25,000 for the defect plus an amount equal to the actual costs incurred by the department in conducting the investigation.
  - (7) If the department finds that a defect existed:
- (a) The department may suspend all sales and leases of the voting system and may suspend its use in any county in the state. The department shall provide written notice of the suspension to each affected vendor and supervisor of elections.
- (b) If the department determines that a defect no longer exists in a voting system that has been suspended from use pursuant to paragraph (a), the department shall lift the suspension and authorize the sale, lease, and use of the voting system in any election in the state. The department shall

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provide written notice that the suspension has been lifted to each affected vendor and supervisor of elections.

- (c) If the defect cannot be cured, the department may disapprove the voting system for use in elections in the state. The department shall provide written notice to all supervisors of elections that the system is no longer approved. After approval of a system has been withdrawn pursuant to this paragraph, the system may not be sold, leased, or used in elections in the state until it has been submitted for examination and approval and adopted for use pursuant to s. 101.5605.
- (d) Any vendor against whom a civil penalty was imposed under this section may not submit a voting system for approval by the Department of State in accordance with s. 101.5605 or enter into a contract for sale or lease of a voting system in the state until the civil penalties have been paid and the department provides written confirmation to the supervisors of elections of the payment.
- (8) The department shall prepare a written report of any investigation conducted pursuant to this section.
- (9) The authority of the department under this section is in addition to, and not exclusive of, any other authority provided by law.
- (10) All proceedings under this section are exempt from chapter 120.
- Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 101.56075, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
- Section 13. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 101.591, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (4) of that

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section is republished, to read:

101.591 Voting system audit.-

- (1) Immediately following the certification of each election, the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election shall conduct a manual audit or an automated, independent audit of the voting systems used in randomly selected precincts.
- (2)(a) A manual The audit shall consist of a public manual tally of the votes cast in one randomly selected race that appears on the ballot. The tally sheet shall include electionday, absentee, early voting, provisional, and overseas ballots, in at least 1 percent but no more than 2 percent of the precincts chosen at random by the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election. If 1 percent of the precincts is less than one entire precinct, the audit shall be conducted using at least one precinct chosen at random by the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election. Such precincts shall be selected at a publicly noticed canvassing board meeting.
- (b) An automated audit shall consist of a public automated tally of the votes cast across every race that appears on the ballot. The tally sheet shall include election day, absentee, early voting, provisional, and overseas ballots in at least 20 percent of the precincts chosen at random by the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election. Such precincts shall be selected at a publicly noticed canvassing board meeting.
- (c) The division shall adopt rules for approval of an independent audit system which provide that the system, at a



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- 1. Completely independent of the primary voting system.
- 2. Fast enough to produce final audit results within the timeframe prescribed in subsection (4).
- 3. Capable of demonstrating that the ballots of record have been accurately adjudicated by the audit system.
- (4) The audit must be completed and the results made public no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 7th day following certification of the election by the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election.

Section 14. Subsections (1) and (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 101.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 101.62 Request for absentee ballots.-
- (1) (a) The supervisor shall accept a request for an absentee ballot from an elector in person or in writing. One request shall be deemed sufficient to receive an absentee ballot for all elections through the end of the calendar year of the second ensuing regularly scheduled general election, unless the elector or the elector's designee indicates at the time the request is made the elections for which the elector desires to receive an absentee ballot. Such request may be considered canceled when any first-class mail sent by the supervisor to the elector is returned as undeliverable.
- (b) The supervisor may accept a written or telephonic request for an absentee ballot to be mailed to an elector's address on file in the Florida Voter Registration System from the elector, or, if directly instructed by the elector, a member of the elector's immediate family, or the elector's legal

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guardian. For purposes of this section, the term "immediate family" has the same meaning as specified in paragraph (4)(c). The person making the request must disclose:

- 1. The name of the elector for whom the ballot is requested.
  - 2. The elector's address.
  - 3. The elector's date of birth.
  - 4. The requester's name.
  - 5. The requester's address.
- 6. The requester's driver driver's license number, if available.
  - 7. The requester's relationship to the elector.
  - 8. The requester's signature (written requests only).
- (c) Upon receiving a request for an absentee ballot from an absent voter, the supervisor of elections shall notify the voter of the free access system that has been designated by the department for determining the status of his or her absentee ballot.
- (3) For each request for an absentee ballot received, the supervisor shall record the date the request was made, the date the absentee ballot was delivered to the voter or the voter's designee or the date the absentee ballot was delivered to the post office or other carrier, the date the ballot was received by the supervisor, the absence of the voter's signature on the voter's certificate, if applicable, and such other information he or she may deem necessary. This information shall be provided in electronic format as provided by rule adopted by the division. The information shall be updated and made available no later than 8 a.m. of each day, including weekends, beginning 60



days before the primary until 15 days after the general election and shall be contemporaneously provided to the division. This information shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and shall be made available to or reproduced only for the voter requesting the ballot, a canvassing board, an election official, a political party or official thereof, a candidate who has filed qualification papers and is opposed in an upcoming election, and registered political committees or registered committees of continuous existence, for political purposes only.

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- (c) The supervisor shall provide an absentee ballot to each elector by whom a request for that ballot has been made by one of the following means:
- 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the elector's current mailing address on file with the supervisor or any other address the elector specifies in the request.
- 2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter may designate in the absentee ballot request the preferred method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the method of transmission, the absentee ballot shall be mailed.
- 3. By personal delivery at any supervisor of elections office before 7 p.m. on election day to the elector, upon presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043, beginning on the 28th day before an election through 7 p.m. on election day.
  - 4. By delivery to a designee on election day or up to 5

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days prior to the day of an election. Any elector may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot for the elector; however, the person designated may not pick up more than two absentee ballots per election, other than the designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. For purposes of this section, "immediate family" means the designee's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the designee or of the designee's spouse. The designee shall provide to the supervisor the written authorization by the elector and a picture identification of the designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the elector to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the elector is a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the elector on the written authorization matches the signature of the elector on file, the supervisor shall give the ballot to that designee for delivery to the elector.

Section 15. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 101.657, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

101.657 Early voting.—

(1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark, code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for each early voted ballot. In order for a branch office to be used

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for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for at least 1 year prior to the election. The supervisor may also designate any suitable location as an early voting site city hall or permanent public library facility as early voting sites; however, if so designated, such the sites must be geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. Each county shall, at a minimum, operate the same total number of early voting sites for a general election which the county operated for the 2012 general election and at least one early voting site for each complete set of 50,000 registered voters in the county as of July 1 of each general election year. The results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not be made before the close of the polls on election day. Results shall be reported by precinct.

(d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th 10th day before an election that contains state or federal races and end on the 2nd 3rd day before the election, and shall be provided for no less than 6 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site during the applicable period. The supervisor of elections may provide early voting for elections that are not held in conjunction with a state or federal election. However, the supervisor has the discretion to determine the hours of operation of early voting sites in those elections.

Section 16. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (2) of that section is reenacted and amended, to read:

101.68 Canvassing of absentee ballot.-

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- (1) The supervisor of the county where the absent elector resides shall receive the voted ballot, at which time the supervisor shall compare the signature of the elector on the voter's certificate with the signature of the elector in the registration books or the precinct register to determine whether the elector is duly registered in the county and may record on the elector's registration certificate that the elector has voted. However, effective July 1, 2005, an elector who dies after casting an absentee ballot but on or before election day shall remain listed in the registration books until the results have been certified for the election in which the ballot was cast. The supervisor shall safely keep the ballot unopened in his or her office until the county canvassing board canvasses the vote. Except as provided in subsection (4), after an absentee ballot is received by the supervisor, the ballot is deemed to have been cast, and changes or additions may not be made to the voter's certificate.
- (2)(a) The county canvassing board may begin the canvassing of absentee ballots at 7 a.m. on the 15th day before the election, but not later than noon on the day following the election. In addition, for any county using electronic tabulating equipment, the processing of absentee ballots through such tabulating equipment may begin at 7 a.m. on the 15th day before the election. However, notwithstanding any such authorization to begin canvassing or otherwise processing absentee ballots early, no result shall be released until after the closing of the polls in that county on election day. Any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of elections, canvassing board member, election board member, or election

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employee who releases the results of a canvassing or processing of absentee ballots prior to the closing of the polls in that county on election day commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- (b) To ensure that all absentee ballots to be counted by the canvassing board are accounted for, the canvassing board shall compare the number of ballots in its possession with the number of requests for ballots received to be counted according to the supervisor's file or list.
- (c) 1. The canvassing board shall, if the supervisor has not already done so, compare the signature of the elector on the voter's certificate or on the absentee ballot affidavit as provided in subsection (4) with the signature of the elector in the registration books or precinct register to see that the elector is duly registered in the county and to determine the legality of that absentee ballot. The ballot of an elector who casts an absentee ballot shall be counted even if the elector dies on or before election day, as long as, prior to the death of the voter, the ballot was postmarked by the United States Postal Service, date-stamped with a verifiable tracking number by common carrier, or already in the possession of the supervisor of elections. An absentee ballot shall be considered illegal if the voter's certificate or absentee ballot affidavit it does not include the signature of the elector, as shown by the registration records. However, an absentee ballot is shall not be considered illegal if the signature of the elector does not cross the seal of the mailing envelope. If the canvassing board determines that any ballot is illegal, a member of the board shall, without opening the envelope, mark across the face

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of the envelope: "rejected as illegal." The absentee ballot affidavit, if applicable, the envelope and the ballot contained therein shall be preserved in the manner that official ballots voted are preserved.

- 2. If any elector or candidate present believes that an absentee ballot is illegal due to a defect apparent on the voter's certificate or the absentee ballot affidavit, he or she may, at any time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file with the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of that ballot, specifying the precinct, the ballot, and the reason he or she believes the ballot to be illegal. A challenge based upon a defect in the voter's certificate or absentee ballot affidavit may not be accepted after the ballot has been removed from the mailing envelope.
- (d) The canvassing board shall record the ballot upon the proper record, unless the ballot has been previously recorded by the supervisor. The mailing envelopes shall be opened and the secrecy envelopes shall be mixed so as to make it impossible to determine which secrecy envelope came out of which signed mailing envelope; however, in any county in which an electronic or electromechanical voting system is used, the ballots may be sorted by ballot styles and the mailing envelopes may be opened and the secrecy envelopes mixed separately for each ballot style. The votes on absentee ballots shall be included in the total vote of the county.
- (4)(a) The supervisor of elections shall, on behalf of the county canvassing board, notify each elector whose ballot was rejected as illegal and provide the specific reason the ballot was rejected because of a difference between the elector's

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signature on the ballot and that on the elector's voter registration record. The supervisor shall mail a voter registration application to the elector to be completed indicating the elector's current signature if the elector's ballot was rejected due to a difference between the elector's signature on the voter's certificate or absentee ballot affidavit and the elector's signature in the registration books or precinct register. This section does not prohibit the supervisor from providing additional methods for updating an elector's signature.

- (b) If the canvassing board has not begun the canvassing of absentee ballots pursuant to subsection (2), the supervisor shall allow an elector who has returned an absentee ballot that does not include the elector's signature to complete an affidavit in order to cure the unsigned absentee ballot. A supervisor who receives an absentee ballot that does not include the elector's signature must notify the elector of that fact along with the procedure for curing such deficiency within 48 hours of receipt.
- (c) The elector shall provide identification to the supervisor and must complete an absentee ballot affidavit in substantially the following form:

## ABSENTEE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT

I, ...., am a qualified voter in this election and registered voter of .... County, Florida. I do solemnly swear or affirm that I requested and returned the absentee ballot and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in



connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more than once in an election, I may be convicted of a felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and imprisoned for up to 5 years. I understand that my failure to sign this affidavit means that my absentee ballot will be invalidated.

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...(Voter's Signature)...

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...(Date)...

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(d) Instructions must accompany the absentee ballot affidavit in substantially the following form:

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE AFFIDAVIT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

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- 1. In order to ensure that your absentee ballot will be counted, your affidavit should be completed and returned as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of elections of the county in which your precinct is located no later than the start of the canvassing of absentee ballots, which occurs no earlier than the 15th day before an election.
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- 2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's Signature).
- 910 identification:

3. You must make a copy of one of the following forms of



- a. Identification which must include your name and photograph: United States passport, debit or credit card, military identification, student identification, retirement center identification, neighborhood association identification, or public assistance identification; or
- b. Identification which shows your name and current residence address: current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document, excluding voter identification card.
- 4. Place the envelope bearing the affidavit into a mailing envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert a copy of your identification in the mailing envelope.
- 5. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed affidavit along with the copy of your identification to your county supervisor of elections. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed and that the supervisor's address is correct.
- (e) The department and each supervisor shall include the affidavit and instructions on their respective websites. The supervisor must include his or her office's mailing address on the page containing the affidavit instructions; the department's instruction page must include the office mailing addresses of all supervisors of elections or provide a conspicuous link to such addresses.
- (f) The supervisor shall attach each affidavit received to the appropriate absentee ballot mailing envelope.

Section 17. This act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

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Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.041, F.S.; revising the qualifications to register to vote; authorizing a person who has been convicted of a felony and has served his or her sentence to preregister to vote; amending s. 97.052, F.S.; revising the uniform statewide voter registration application; amending s. 97.053, F.S.; revising what constitutes a complete voter registration application; amending s. 97.055, F.S.; revising the date that registration books must be closed for an election; amending s. 98.045, F.S.; revising the eligibility requirements for applicants for voter registration; revising procedures for removal of registered voters; amending s. 98.075, F.S.; revising procedures for ineligibility determinations of registered voters; creating s. 100.032, F.S.; requiring supervisors of elections to submit a report to the Secretary of State at least 3 months before a general election; amending s. 101.045, F.S.; authorizing an elector to vote a regular ballot at the polling place in the precinct to which he or she has moved by completing an affirmation; deleting a requirement that the elector's change of residence must occur within the same county for the elector to be able to vote in the new precinct; amending s. 101.161, F.S.; providing a limitation on the number of words for certain ballot

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summaries in joint resolutions proposed by the Legislature; providing that a revised ballot summary prepared by the Attorney General may not exceed 75 words in length; deleting a provision providing that a ballot statement consisting of the full text of a constitutional amendment or revision is presumed to be a clear and unambiguous statement; amending s. 101.5605, F.S.; requiring a person to provide the name, mailing address, and telephone number of a registered agent of a voting systems vendor to the Department of State under certain circumstances; providing that proof of delivery or attempt to deliver constitutes valid notice; creating s. 101.56065, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring a vendor to file a written disclosure with the department; providing requirements for the disclosure; providing what constitutes a cure of a defect; requiring a vendor to file a new disclosure with the department if a vendor becomes aware of a defect within a specified period; authorizing the department to suspend all sales or leases or use in an election of a defective voting system; providing procedures for the suspension of voting systems; authorizing the department to withdraw approval of voting systems under certain circumstances; authorizing the department to initiate an investigation of a defective voting system; establishing procedures and requirements of investigations; providing a penalty; repealing s. 101.56075(4), F.S., relating to the requirement that

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all voting systems used by voters in a state election allow placement of the full text of a constitutional amendment or revision containing stricken or underlined text by a specified date; amending s. 101.591, F.S.; authorizing use of automated, independent audits of voting systems; providing audit requirements; requiring the Division of Elections to adopt rules; amending s. 101.62, F.S.; revising the requirements for a valid absentee ballot request; requiring the supervisor to record the absence of the voter's signature on the voter's certificate under specified circumstances; amending s. 101.657, F.S.; revising the list of permissible sites available for early voting; requiring each county to operate at least the same number of early voting sites as used for the 2012 general election; providing requirements for determining the number of early voting sites each county must operate; increasing the number of days and hours for early voting; amending s. 101.68, F.S., and reenacting subsection (2), relating to the canvassing of absentee ballots; authorizing the supervisor to use the elector's signature in a precinct register to compare with the elector's signature on the voter's certificate; providing that an absentee ballot must clearly identify the name of the witness in order to be considered legal; requiring the supervisor to provide the elector with the specific reason his or her ballot was rejected; requiring the supervisor to allow electors to complete an affidavit to cure an

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unsigned absentee ballot before canvassing; requiring the supervisor to notify the elector of the missing signature within 48 hours of receipt; providing the form and contents of the affidavit; providing instructions to accompany each absentee ballot affidavit; requiring the affidavit, instructions, and the supervisor's office mailing address to be posted on certain websites; requiring the supervisor to attach a received affidavit to the appropriate absentee ballot mailing envelope; providing an effective date.

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