



211540

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Ethics and Elections (Taddeo) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 14 - 56

and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.68 Canvassing of vote-by-mail ballot.-

(2) (a) The county canvassing board may begin the canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots upon the completion of the public testing of automatic tabulating equipment pursuant to s.



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11 ~~101.5612(2) at 7 a.m. on the 22nd day before the election, but~~  
12 ~~must begin such canvassing by no ~~not~~ later than noon on the day~~  
13 ~~following the election. In addition, for any county using~~  
14 ~~electronic tabulating equipment, the processing of vote-by-mail~~  
15 ~~ballots through such tabulating equipment may begin at 7 a.m. on~~  
16 ~~the 22nd day before the election. However, notwithstanding any~~  
17 such authorization to begin canvassing or otherwise processing  
18 vote-by-mail ballots early, no result shall be released until  
19 after the closing of the polls in that county on election day.  
20 Any supervisor, deputy supervisor, canvassing board member,  
21 election board member, or election employee who releases the  
22 results of a canvassing or processing of vote-by-mail ballots  
23 prior to the closing of the polls in that county on election day  
24 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
25 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

26  
27 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

28 And the title is amended as follows:

29 Delete lines 3 - 9

30 and insert:

31 101.68, F.S.; authorizing the canvassing of vote-by-  
32 mail ballots upon the completion of the public  
33 preelection testing of automatic tabulating equipment;  
34 providing an effective