

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.012,
3 F.S.; requiring the Secretary of State to take certain
4 actions regarding independent procedural audits for
5 elections; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining the
6 terms "absentee vote processing worker" and "other
7 election system"; amending s. 101.015, F.S.; requiring
8 the Department of State to adopt rules relating to the
9 security of certain voting procedures; requiring the
10 department to create a certain manual; requiring the
11 department to adopt by rule certain minimum security
12 standards; requiring county canvassing boards to
13 enforce such standards; requiring county canvassing
14 board manuals to include specified information;
15 requiring county canvassing boards to reconcile
16 certain ballots and forms; requiring the department to
17 develop and adopt certain rules for the physical
18 security of election materials and technology,
19 absentee vote process reporting and observation, and
20 manual cross-checks for certain systems; amending s.
21 101.131, F.S.; authorizing political action committees
22 and political committees to have poll watchers in
23 polling rooms and early voting areas; revising the
24 date before which poll watchers must be designated;
25 revising the information that must be on a poll

26 | watcher's identification badge; prohibiting a poll
27 | watcher from wearing another poll watcher's
28 | identification badge; creating s. 101.132, F.S.;
29 | authorizing certain persons to designate poll watchers
30 | for absentee vote processing centers; providing
31 | requirements for absentee vote processing center work
32 | areas and the number of poll watchers who may observe
33 | in each area; providing requirements for such
34 | watchers; requiring the Department of State to
35 | establish a certain telephone hotline; requiring the
36 | department to adopt by rule a certain manual;
37 | requiring the department to prescribe certain forms;
38 | requiring a supervisor of elections to accept certain
39 | forms; requiring a supervisor of elections to furnish
40 | a specified list to county canvassing boards;
41 | authorizing certain persons to be designated as poll
42 | watchers; authorizing poll watchers to enter into
43 | specified areas and watch operations in compliance
44 | with certain safety recommendations; providing
45 | requirements for poll watcher identification badges;
46 | amending s. 101.21, F.S.; requiring a supervisor of
47 | elections to determine the actual number of voter
48 | certificate envelopes to be printed for each election;
49 | providing requirements for printed ballots and voter
50 | certificate envelopes; requiring a supervisor of

51 elections to complete a certain report; requiring the
52 county canvassing boards to complete and reconcile the
53 review and approval of such report before an election
54 is certified; amending s. 101.545, F.S.; requiring a
55 supervisor of elections to retain envelopes, seals,
56 and video recordings for a certain time period;
57 authorizing the destruction of certain election
58 materials after a certain audit is completed and
59 published on the supervisor of election's website;
60 amending s. 101.5614, F.S.; requiring certain
61 information to be entered on certain forms; requiring
62 precinct poll workers to conduct certain hand-counted
63 audits; providing requirements and procedures for such
64 audits; providing that certain results may be provided
65 to county canvassing boards for a specified purpose;
66 prohibiting a tabulator from using networking
67 communication hardware; authorizing a supervisor of
68 elections to collect certain data in a certain manner;
69 requiring certain ballots to be duplicated in the
70 presence of certain watchers; authorizing a duplicate
71 to be made by hand duplication; authorizing certain
72 persons to observe the duplication of ballots;
73 requiring a county canvassing board to convene in the
74 presence of certain parties for certain discussions
75 before certification of the election; amending s.

76 | 101.595, F.S.; requiring that a certain audit be
77 | conducted after each election in certain
78 | circumstances; providing requirements for such audit;
79 | requiring the department to adopt rules; amending s.
80 | 101.6103, F.S.; requiring a supervisor of elections to
81 | mail ballots with certain envelopes; requiring a
82 | supervisor of elections to use separate postal service
83 | billing permits for certain purposes; revising actions
84 | an elector must take upon receipt of his or her
85 | ballot; revising information to be included on the
86 | voter's certificate; requiring an elector who requests
87 | a replacement ballot to provide certain
88 | identification; requiring a supervisor of elections to
89 | verify signatures on certain sworn statements;
90 | revising the circumstances in which such a ballot is
91 | counted; requiring a supervisor of elections to keep
92 | such ballots stored in an area secured in a specified
93 | manner; requiring that the canvassing of mail ballots
94 | be open for public observation; amending s. 101.6104,
95 | F.S.; requiring a ballot to be treated in a certain
96 | manner upon county canvassing board receipt of a
97 | challenge of a voter certificate envelope or cure
98 | affidavit signature; amending s. 101.62, F.S.;
99 | revising the methods by which a request for a vote-by-
100 | mail ballot may be made; requiring an absentee ballot

101 request form to require the signature of the voter;
102 requiring a person requesting a vote-by-mail ballot to
103 provide and attest to an authorized reason for such
104 request; providing such authorized reasons; requiring
105 voters to provide certain information in certain
106 written requests for vote-by-mail ballots; revising
107 circumstances under which the supervisor of elections
108 must cancel a request for a vote-by-mail ballot;
109 requiring the supervisor of elections to provide
110 certain information to the voter after such
111 cancelation; deleting provisions relating to absent
112 uniformed services voters and overseas voters;
113 requiring a supervisor of elections to record certain
114 information for each vote-by-mail ballot request;
115 revising a statement that must be marked on certain
116 envelopes; requiring verification of certain
117 information on a request form; providing that a person
118 who provides false information on an absentee ballot
119 request form commits a felony; providing criminal
120 penalties; amending s. 101.64, F.S.; revising the
121 specified envelopes that a supervisor of elections
122 must enclose with a vote-by-mail ballot; revising the
123 voter's certificate that accompanies vote-by-mail
124 ballots; amending s. 101.65, F.S.; revising the
125 instructions that a supervisor of elections must

126 | enclose with a vote-by-mail ballot; amending s.
127 | 101.655, F.S.; requiring a supervisor of elections to
128 | provide bipartisan supervised voting for certain
129 | absent electors at the request of certain persons;
130 | providing requirements for the transportation and
131 | chain of custody for ballots delivered to and
132 | completed by certain absent electors; requiring a
133 | supervised voting team to verify an elector's identity
134 | in a certain manner; amending s. 101.68, F.S.;
135 | requiring a supervisor of elections to verify a
136 | certificate signature, a voter certificate envelope,
137 | and ballot material in a specified manner; requiring a
138 | supervisor of elections to evaluate certain photo
139 | identification in a certain manner; requiring a county
140 | canvassing board to complete the canvass of certain
141 | ballots within a certain timeframe; requiring a county
142 | canvassing board to make certain ballot comparisons
143 | according to specified records and reports; specifying
144 | that certain identification is considered ballot
145 | material and must be presented to certain persons;
146 | providing that certain envelopes are considered
147 | illegal; requiring that logs of certain information be
148 | kept; requiring that certain materials be preserved in
149 | a specified manner and reviewed for certain purposes;
150 | requiring a supervisor of elections to provide direct

151 | links to his or her website in certain circumstances;
152 | revising the vote-by-mail cure affidavit; authorizing
153 | certain persons to inspect certain materials;
154 | requiring the review of certain materials in certain
155 | circumstances; requiring a supervisor of elections to
156 | provide certain persons with certain access to certain
157 | ballot materials; prohibiting a supervisor of
158 | elections from limiting the time available to certain
159 | persons to complete a cure affidavit review during
160 | certain periods; providing that a ballot for which a
161 | cure affidavit protest is rejected shall be counted;
162 | requiring county canvassing board minutes to contain
163 | certain information; requiring a supervisor of
164 | elections to research certain electors to determine
165 | their voter eligibility; requiring that certain
166 | information be made available to certain persons;
167 | amending s. 101.69, F.S.; revising the process for
168 | marking certain returned ballots as canceled;
169 | requiring that certain materials be submitted to the
170 | Office of Election Crimes and Security for
171 | investigation; revising locations at which secure
172 | ballot intake stations may be placed; requiring
173 | certain daily inspection of secure ballot intake
174 | stations during early voting; providing a civil
175 | penalty for supervisors of elections for deploying

176 secure ballot intake stations that do not meet certain
177 standards; amending s. 101.6921, F.S.; revising the
178 specified envelopes that a supervisor of elections
179 must enclose with a vote-by-mail ballot; revising the
180 voter's certificate; amending s. 101.6923, F.S.;
181 revising the instructions that a supervisor of
182 elections must enclose with certain vote-by-mail
183 ballots; amending s. 102.012, F.S.; requiring a
184 supervisor of elections to recruit absentee vote
185 processing workers; requiring such workers to
186 subscribe to an oath or affirmation and meet certain
187 qualifications; amending s. 102.014, F.S.; requiring a
188 supervisor of elections to conduct required training
189 for absentee vote processing workers; requiring the
190 department to develop a certain uniform training
191 curriculum for use by supervisors of elections;
192 requiring such workers to demonstrate a working
193 knowledge of certain laws and procedures; requiring a
194 supervisor of elections to appoint a replacement for
195 such a worker in certain circumstances; prohibiting an
196 absentee vote processing worker from working in a work
197 area unless he or she completes certain minimum
198 training requirements; revising the contents of the
199 polling place procedures manual; requiring the
200 department to create and adopt by rule an absentee

201 vote processing center procedures manual; providing
202 requirements for such manual; requiring the department
203 to revise such manual as necessary; amending s.
204 102.141, F.S.; revising the composition of county
205 canvassing boards; authorizing a supervisor of
206 elections to appoint a municipal official as a
207 substitute member of the county canvassing board;
208 requiring a specified quorum of the county canvassing
209 board for certain proceedings; requiring real-time
210 video monitoring of county canvassing board meetings;
211 requiring meeting minutes to be published on the
212 supervisor of election's website; requiring the county
213 canvassing board to review certain reports each day
214 and take certain actions; authorizing candidates and
215 political parties to view certain forms and file
216 specified objections; requiring the county canvassing
217 board to review certain information before certifying
218 an election; requiring the county canvassing board to
219 address certain discrepancies in a certain manner;
220 requiring a special election in certain circumstances;
221 authorizing the supervisor of elections to be removed
222 from office in certain circumstances; requiring a
223 manual recount to use original paper ballots and voter
224 certificate envelopes in certain circumstances;
225 revising requirements for a county canvassing board

226 | conducting a recount; amending s. 102.166, F.S.;

227 | authorizing a candidate to request a manual recount of

228 | certain votes after a first set of unofficial returns

229 | in certain circumstances; revising the percentage of

230 | votes by which a candidate is defeated upon which a

231 | manual recount of certain votes is required; providing

232 | requirements for such recounts; authorizing certain

233 | governmental entities to request a manual recount in

234 | certain circumstances; requiring a certain audit to be

235 | conducted upon delivery of a certain petition;

236 | providing requirements for such audit; requiring a

237 | manual audit in certain races for which a specified

238 | discrepancy exists; amending s. 104.21, F.S.;

239 | providing that an election worker who changes certain

240 | envelope information or markings commits a

241 | misdemeanor; providing criminal penalties; creating s.

242 | 104.291, F.S.; providing that a poll watcher who wears

243 | the identification badge of another person commits a

244 | misdemeanor; providing criminal penalties; amending s.

245 | 104.30, F.S.; providing that a person who prints

246 | certain ballots or voter certificate envelopes without

247 | authorization commits a felony; providing criminal

248 | penalties; providing an effective date.

249 |

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

251
252 **Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section 97.012,**
253 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

254 97.012 Secretary of State as chief election officer.—The
255 Secretary of State is the chief election officer of the state,
256 and it is his or her responsibility to:

257 (18) Organize, participate in, and provide legislative
258 reports on independent procedural audits to ensure election laws
259 and rules are consistently followed.

260 **Section 2. Subsections (4) through (24) and (25) through**
261 **(47) of section 97.021, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as**
262 **subsections (5) through (25) and (27) through (49),**
263 **respectively, and new subsections (3) and (26) are added to that**
264 **section to read:**

265 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except
266 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

267 (3) "Absentee vote processing worker" means a person who
268 performs functions related to absentee ballots including
269 receiving and transporting such ballots, signature verification,
270 ballot duplication, opening of voter certificates, tabulation,
271 storage, and administration of information systems used for
272 absentee ballot processing.

273 (26) "Other election system" means any information
274 technology other than a voting system which is used in the
275 election process and which is capable of adding, deleting, or

276 modifying ballots or votes or which stores critical election
277 data. The term includes hosted technologies and service
278 providers that store or have access to critical election data.
279 The term also includes, but is not limited to, the voter
280 registration system, electronic precinct registers, tabulation
281 systems, mail sorters, election night reporting systems, ballot
282 tracking solutions, and future technologies integrated into the
283 election process.

284 **Section 3. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section**
285 **101.015, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9),**
286 **(10), and (11), respectively, new subsections (5), (6), and (7)**
287 **and subsection (8) are added to that section, and subsections**
288 **(3) and (4) and present subsection (6) of that section are**
289 **amended, to read:**

290 101.015 Standards for voting systems.—

291 (3) The Department of State shall adopt rules to achieve
292 and maintain the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality,
293 ~~and~~ efficiency, and security of the procedures of in-person and
294 absentee voting, including write-in voting, and of counting,
295 tabulating, and recording votes by voting systems and other
296 election systems used in this state.

297 (4) (a) The Department of State shall adopt rules
298 establishing minimum security standards for voting systems and
299 create an absentee ballot processing manual adopted by rule
300 which is composed of such standards. The standards, at a

301 minimum, must address the ~~following~~:

302 ~~1.~~ chain of custody of ballots, including chain of custody
303 forms and procedures for ballots returned by mail, secure ballot
304 intake stations, in-person return, or facsimile, which extends
305 through the work areas of the absentee vote counting location
306 and to storage. Chain of custody standards must:

307 1. Enable monitoring of the ballot transport and receiving
308 process by the county canvassing board and monitoring of
309 precertification audits and postcertification procedural audits.

310 2. Include validation and reporting by the county
311 canvassing board on a daily basis during the election that the
312 required chain of custody forms are properly completed, that
313 chain of custody is not broken, that any exceptions are noted
314 with an action plan to resolve the issue, and that sent and
315 received ballot quantities and seals match and are consistent
316 with the seal number ranges and ballot transport container
317 numbers assigned to particular locations. Such validation and
318 reporting must include objective measures for determining ballot
319 quantities received at the vote counting location and
320 determining ballot quantities when moved between work areas of
321 the vote counting location.

322 3. Require that appropriate corrective measures as
323 determined by the department be taken immediately when the chain
324 of custody is broken. Such measures must include notification
325 and reasonable steps to correct the issue, employee education,

326 disciplinary actions, reassignment, penalties, or criminal
327 referral.

328 4. Provide definitions for and examples of an excessive
329 transport time; a broken seal; a marking that is not legally
330 binding, such as overwritten data entry without proper notation;
331 missing or disparate ballot quantities; and other circumstances
332 that break chain of custody.

333 5. Prohibit the comingling of absentee ballots from a
334 secure ballot intake station, the United States Postal Service,
335 in-person return at the supervisor's office or vote counting
336 location, or facsimile until the chain of custody validation is
337 completed from each source by election officials, political
338 action committee designees, and major political party designees.

339 6. If return ballot postage is prepaid by a supervisor,
340 require the supervisor to have separate post office billing
341 permits dedicated to and used exclusively for outgoing ballots
342 and returned ballots to enable auditing. Post office billing
343 records must be reconciled on a daily basis with the number of
344 absentee ballots sent to and received from the United States
345 Postal Service. The supervisor may not use the post office
346 billing permits required under this subparagraph for mailing of
347 other items.

348 7. If return ballot postage is not prepaid by a
349 supervisor, require the supervisor to employ other means to
350 reconcile the number of completed ballots transported between

351 the post office box and the absentee vote counting location or
352 have the ballots delivered directly to the absentee vote
353 counting location.

354 8. Require that ballots returned by registered mail be
355 accepted and tracked in a log used for auditing purposes, if the
356 supervisor or voter chooses to pay for the service.

357 9. Require that chain of custody forms for completed
358 ballots from secure intake stations include fields for all of
359 the following:

360 a. The address of the secure ballot intake station
361 location and ballot transport container number.

362 b. The date and time.

363 c. Verification that the secure ballot intake station was
364 empty at the beginning of the day, with one verifier from each
365 major political party who shall sign and print his or her name
366 and write either "empty" or "not empty" to reflect the state in
367 which he or she found the intake receptacle.

368 d. The printed names and signatures of two persons who
369 count the ballots in the secure ballot intake station for
370 transport at the close of the day's authorized voting hours,
371 place the ballots in an assigned ballot transport container, and
372 place a seal on the ballot transport container.

373 e. The seal number placed on the ballot transport
374 container.

375 f. The printed names and signatures of two transporters

376 accepting custody of the sealed voter certificate envelopes and
377 the seal number observed.

378 g. The transport vehicle type and license plate number.

379 h. The transporter departure time, the seal number on the
380 ballot transport container, and a checkbox to confirm that the
381 seal is intact at the handoff.

382 i. The printed names and signatures of two vote counting
383 center staff accepting custody of the voter certificate
384 envelopes from transporters, the date, the time, the seal
385 number, a checkbox to confirm that the seal is intact, the
386 quantity counted, and the method used to count.

387 j. The ballot transport container number.

388 k. Explanations for form anomalies or missing data,
389 including excessive transport times, which includes any
390 documented period of transport that exceeds 12 hours.

391 10. Require that the supervisor be notified if a ballot is
392 found in the secure ballot intake station at the beginning of
393 the day. The supervisor shall research the origin of the ballot,
394 and if the supervisor determines that the ballot was placed in
395 the intake receptacle during authorized voting hours during the
396 previous day, the ballot must be processed. If the supervisor
397 determines that the ballot was placed in the intake receptacle
398 outside of authorized voting hours or that the ballot envelope
399 does not display a valid county election serial number, the
400 supervisor must notify the voter that his or her ballot may not

401 be counted unless it is cured, send the voter instructions to
402 complete a cure affidavit, and refer the matter to the Office of
403 Election Crimes and Security for investigation.

404 11. Provide that the facsimile used to send and receive
405 uniformed and overseas voter ballots may be used only for that
406 function, and the facsimile transmission logs must be printed
407 daily, retained, and made available to the county canvassing
408 board, state and county inspectors and auditors, and public
409 watchers.

410 12. Require the maintenance of ballot-on-demand print
411 logs. The logs must be made available to the county canvassing
412 board, state and county inspectors and auditors, and public
413 watchers.

414 13. Require, after the county canvassing board completes
415 the daily validation of the chain of custody, the number of
416 absentee ballots received at the vote counting location to be
417 posted daily, by source, on the supervisor's website. Any chain
418 of custody or validation issues and any observer objections must
419 be noted in the daily chain of custody report, entered into the
420 county canvassing board's minutes, and reported to the
421 department.

422 14. Require each ballot and envelope to have a unique
423 county election serial number. The unique county election serial
424 number must include at least 11 digits. The first three digits
425 must identify the county, the next four digits must identify the

426 year of the election, and the next two digits must identify the
427 month of the election. Such numbers may not be repeated for 5
428 years. A supervisor must ensure that vendors are properly
429 allocated distinct ranges of numbers and that produced materials
430 contain only the allocated ranges of numbers before the ballots
431 and envelopes are mailed. Additional security measures must be
432 implemented to protect ballots from being illegally duplicated,
433 distributed, or inserted, including the sourcing of ballots and
434 envelopes to separate vendors.

435 (b) The standards included in the absentee ballot
436 processing manual must be enforced by the county canvassing
437 board before opening voter certificate envelopes and by audit
438 before election certification, with disciplinary penalties for
439 noncompliance. The county canvassing board manual must include
440 procedures for monitoring of the chain of custody of ballots and
441 portable storage media, manual cross-check reports, and manual
442 counts.

443 (c) Before certifying an election, the county canvassing
444 board shall reconcile the number of ballots transported from
445 secure ballot intake stations, the United States Postal Service,
446 in-person return at the supervisor's office or vote counting
447 location, and facsimile with the number of absentee ballots
448 counted. The county canvassing board shall also reconcile the
449 chain of custody forms with the number of ballots transported
450 from the vote counting location to storage and the number of

451 ballots counted. Both reconciliation reports require approval by
452 the Department of State before certification of the election and
453 must be promptly published on the supervisor's website.

454 (5) The Department of State shall develop and adopt rules
455 for the physical security of election materials and technology,
456 which must include all of the following:

457 (a) Standards for building security at absentee vote
458 counting locations. Electronic badge access must be required to
459 gain access to the absentee vote counting location and to secure
460 storage areas within the building. All employees and visitors,
461 including vendors, must be required to visibly wear photo
462 identification badges at all times.

463 (b) That an absentee vote counting location be in the
464 supervisor of election's office or a stand-alone building that
465 may include gated fencing. Absentee vote counting locations must
466 have video surveillance of all building and parking lot entries
467 and exits.

468 (c) That cable and other ports be sealed on all systems
469 left unattended overnight at any early voting location.

470 (d) Standards for secure ballot intake stations. Secure
471 ballot intake stations must be located inside polling places or
472 the main office of, and, if used, any branch office of, a
473 supervisor. A supervisor may only use a brand or model of secure
474 ballot intake station which the Department of State has
475 certified as secure. Secure ballot intake stations must be

476 inspected and audited by bipartisan state or county teams
477 accompanied by public watchers.

478 (e) That ballots be transported by at least two persons,
479 each representing a different major political party. A duplicate
480 copy of the ballot transport form must be placed inside the
481 ballot transport container before the container is sealed.

482 (f) That once received at a vote counting location, a
483 sealed ballot transport container be stored in a secured area
484 under video surveillance and accessible only by electronic badge
485 access. Compliance must be validated by the county canvassing
486 board with public observation.

487 (g) A prohibition on opening any sealed container of
488 completed ballots without observation by members of both major
489 political parties and the public.

490 (h) That portable storage media be stored in a secured
491 area under video surveillance and accessible only by electronic
492 badge access.

493 (i) That the chain of custody of ballots, including a
494 detailed description of forms and procedures to create a
495 complete record of custody of ballots and paper outputs, begin
496 with the ballot design and the receipt of ballots from all
497 sources until such time as the ballots are destroyed.

498 (6) The Department of State shall adopt rules providing
499 absentee vote process reporting and observation requirements of
500 the supervisor of elections to state, county, and public

501 preelection inspectors, election monitors, preelection
502 certification audits, and postelection certification procedural
503 audits. The rules must address:

504 (a) Reporting during and after the election cycle.
505 (b) Video viewing, video streaming of all ballot
506 processing, video recording storage, and public records requests
507 for video recordings.

508 (c) In-person observation.
509 (d) United States Postal Service liaison and monitoring.
510 (e) A ballot accounting report that must be completed by
511 the supervisor and reviewed by the canvassing board before
512 election certification. The ballot accounting report must
513 reconcile:

514 1. The number of ballots tabulated in precincts, the
515 number of voters who checked in, and the number of ballots
516 counted during each day of early voting and election day.

517 2. The number of absentee ballots tabulated in the
518 absentee vote processing center each day and the chain of
519 custody form ballot totals from secure ballot intake stations,
520 the United States Postal Service, facsimile logs, and in-person
521 drop off each day.

522 3. The number of absentee ballots mailed out equals the
523 number of outbound ballots billed by the post office.

524 4. The number of ballots acquired or printed, including
525 ballot-on-demand ballots, and the number of ballots used,

526 unused, spoiled, duplicated, and unreturned.

527 (f) Audits conducted by bipartisan state and county audit
528 teams with public observation to confirm that the required chain
529 of custody forms and processes are in compliance. Such audits
530 must include examination of post office billing records, fax
531 logs, and chain of custody forms. The rules must provide for
532 disciplinary actions and criminal referrals when appropriate.
533 The rules must require that if it is determined in a
534 postcertification audit that the number of ballots involved in
535 chain of custody breaches in an election exceed the margin of
536 victory in any race in that election, such race must be deemed
537 invalid and a special election must be held to fill the office
538 in accordance with chapter 100. If an audit failure is
539 determined to be due to chain of custody mismanagement, an audit
540 failure report must be generated by the Secretary of State and
541 made available to the public, and the supervisor overseeing the
542 process may be disciplined or removed from office.

543 (7) The Department of State shall adopt rules that include
544 manual cross-checks for legacy systems and systems that have
545 networking or other communication capability to ensure that such
546 systems have not been compromised by unauthorized changes in
547 settings, data manipulation, or malware. The rules must require:

548 (a) That early voting sites reconcile and report daily at
549 the close of authorized voting hours the:

550 1. Number of ballots tabulated by precinct tabulator, as

551 calculated by subtracting the cumulative tabulator count at the
552 end of the prior day from the cumulative tabulator count of the
553 current day.

554 2. Number of completed ballots processed through the
555 precinct tabulator and transported to storage.

556 3. Number of voters who checked in to the precinct.

557 4. Number of blank ballots processed through the precinct
558 tabulator. All blank ballots must be placed in a separate
559 envelope to enable auditing.

560 (b) That, after the polls are closed on the first day of
561 early voting and on election day, precinct poll workers conduct
562 a hand-counted audit of both a randomly chosen race and the race
563 for the highest office on the ballot. In view of the public,
564 ballots must be placed in stacks according to the candidate
565 chosen on the ballots for that race. A poll worker from each of
566 the two largest political parties shall hand count those ballots
567 and verify the candidate choice. This process must be repeated
568 as necessary until the hand-counted totals from each poll worker
569 match. Hand-counted totals must be noted and compared to the
570 machine count. Any discrepancies must be flagged and reported to
571 the supervisor of elections and posted for the public. The
572 supervisor shall verify any discrepancies over the next 3 days
573 with interested members of the public and at least one person
574 from each major political party present. If the supervisor
575 determines that there is a discrepancy, all ballots for the

576 entire precinct must be hand counted, and those results, once
577 verified, override the machine count.

578 (c) That, at least once during each day of absentee ballot
579 canvassing, election workers conduct hand-counted cross-checks
580 of each tabulator for a randomly chosen race on batches of
581 ballots. In view of the public, ballots must be placed in stacks
582 according to the candidate chosen on the ballots for that race.
583 An election worker shall hand count those ballots and verify any
584 discrepancies flagged, reported, and verified according to the
585 process required under paragraph (b). If the supervisor
586 determines that there is a discrepancy, all ballots for the
587 entire precinct must be hand counted, and those results, once
588 verified, override the machine count. Any tabulator that
589 produces erroneous results must be taken out of service until
590 the cause of the error is determined and corrected. When random
591 batches are analyzed, the contents of output sorter bins must be
592 inspected to validate proper sorting.

593 (d) That, if an automated signature verification system is
594 used, the settings be verified and documented four times each
595 day. The settings must be corrected if the settings are found to
596 be out of compliance. After such verification and, if necessary,
597 correction, signatures on 20 voters' certificates must be
598 compared manually to determine if the signature verification
599 algorithm is functioning properly. If there is a discrepancy,
600 the signatures must be verified manually until the system is

601 replaced or the cause of the issue is determined and corrected.
602 The employee performing this verification must sign the
603 verification form and print his or her name, the date, the time,
604 and the outcome.

605 (e) That, if an automated target duplication is used, 20
606 original ballots be compared four times each day to the original
607 ballot displayed on the duplication machine console to ensure
608 that the ballot is correctly displayed. If the display is
609 inconsistent, duplication must be completed manually until the
610 cause of the issue is determined and corrected.

611 (f) That, if an outbound mail assembly and sorter is used,
612 the transfer of outgoing ballots from the dock be under video
613 surveillance. After each batch is assembled and sorted, the
614 batch report quantity must be compared to the number of ballots
615 received at the dock, as determined by weight.

616 (g) That, if an inbound mail sorter is used, the number of
617 inbound envelopes processed daily be compared to the number of
618 ballots received at the dock as documented in chain of custody
619 forms from secure ballot intake stations and the United States
620 Postal Service.

621 (h) That the voter registration database be analyzed
622 monthly for registration anomalies. Any anomalies must be
623 investigated and corrected. The database must be backed up daily
624 using a method that preserves the history of any changes made in
625 a manner that allows for restoration to previous versions of the

626 history at any time. The supervisor shall use a department-
627 approved storage device that uses technologies such as a write
628 once, read many, or "WORM," device, as appropriate. The
629 supervisor shall immediately, automatically, and securely
630 transmit to the department an identical copy of the database
631 backup. The supervisor and the department shall each retain the
632 database backup for at least 5 years. Such backups may be used
633 by internal auditors, independent third-party auditors, major
634 political parties, and the public for the purpose of auditing
635 voter registration transactions.

636 (i) That any changes or additions made in the 60-day
637 period preceding election day be tracked and audited by an
638 independent auditor. Audit reports must be made available to the
639 public at no charge and must include the mode and location of
640 unauthorized new registrations, registration updates, or
641 deletions occurring in the 60-day period preceding election day,
642 and the voted status of every registrant registered to vote in
643 the election. A person may not be removed from the voter roll
644 until the audit is complete. An archived dataset of persons
645 removed from the voter roll, including each person's voting
646 history, must be maintained for auditing purposes. The archived
647 dataset must be included upon request with any distribution of
648 the voter roll.

649 (j) That, if new technologies are tested during an
650 election, the supervisor posts, in a conspicuous location

651 visible to the public within the vote counting center and all
652 election locations, a notice providing the location, date, and
653 time of such testing. All machines and election equipment in
654 testing must clearly be labeled as such.

655 (k) That procedures for manual counts include video
656 recording and public observation ~~a detailed description of~~
657 ~~procedures to create a complete written record of the chain of~~
658 ~~eustody of ballots and paper outputs beginning with their~~
659 ~~receipt from a printer or manufacturer until such time as they~~
660 ~~are destroyed.~~

661 ~~2. Transport of ballots, including a description of the~~
662 ~~method and equipment used and a detailed list of the names of~~
663 ~~all individuals involved in such transport.~~

664 ~~3. Ballot security, including a requirement that all~~
665 ~~ballots be kept in a locked room in the supervisor's office, a~~
666 ~~facility controlled by the supervisor or county canvassing~~
667 ~~board, or a public place in which the county canvassing board is~~
668 ~~canvassing votes until needed for canvassing and returned~~
669 ~~thereafter.~~

670 (8) (a) 1. Each supervisor shall establish written
671 procedures to assure accuracy and security in his or her county,
672 including procedures related to early voting pursuant to s.
673 101.657. Such procedures shall be reviewed in each odd-numbered
674 year by the department.

675 (b) 2. Each supervisor shall submit any revisions to the

676 security procedures to the department at least 45 days before
 677 early voting commences pursuant to s. 101.657 in an election in
 678 which they are to take effect.

679 ~~(10)-(6)~~ All electronic and electromechanical voting
 680 systems purchased on or after January 1, 1990, must meet the
 681 minimum standards established under subsection (1). All
 682 electronic and electromechanical voting systems in use on or
 683 after July 1, 1993, must meet the minimum standards established
 684 under subsection (1) or subsection (9) ~~(5)~~.

685 **Section 4. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section**
 686 **101.131, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

687 101.131 Watchers at polls.—

688 (1) Each political party, political action committee,
 689 political committee, and ~~each~~ candidate may have one watcher in
 690 each polling room or early voting area at any one time during
 691 the election. A political committee formed for the specific
 692 purpose of expressly advocating the passage or defeat of an
 693 issue on the ballot may have one watcher for each polling room
 694 or early voting area at any one time during the election. A ~~No~~
 695 watcher may ~~shall be permitted to come as close~~ closer to the
 696 officials' table, tabulator, secure ballot intake station, or
 697 ~~the~~ voting booths as ~~than~~ is reasonably necessary to properly
 698 perform his or her functions, and must ~~but each shall~~ be allowed
 699 within the polling room or early voting area to watch and
 700 observe the conduct of electors and officials. The poll watchers

701 shall furnish their own materials and necessities and may ~~shall~~
702 not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. The poll
703 watchers shall pose any questions regarding polling place
704 procedures directly to the clerk for resolution. Poll watchers
705 ~~They~~ may not interact with voters. Each poll watcher must ~~shall~~
706 be a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he
707 or she serves.

708 (2) Each political party, political action committee, each
709 political committee, and each candidate requesting to have poll
710 watchers shall designate, in writing to the supervisors of
711 elections, on a form prescribed by the division, before noon of
712 the second Tuesday preceding the election poll watchers for each
713 polling room on election day. Designations of poll watchers for
714 early voting areas must ~~shall~~ be submitted in writing to the
715 supervisor of elections, on a form prescribed by the division,
716 before noon on the 5th business day ~~at least 14 days~~ before
717 early voting begins. The poll watchers for polling rooms must
718 ~~shall~~ be approved by the supervisor of elections on or before
719 the Tuesday before the election. Poll watchers for early voting
720 areas must ~~shall~~ be approved by the supervisor of elections no
721 later than 7 days before early voting begins. The supervisor
722 shall furnish to each election board a list of the poll watchers
723 designated and approved for such polling rooms or early voting
724 areas. Designation of poll watchers shall be made by the chair
725 of the county executive committee of a political party, the

726 chair of a political action committee, the chair of a political
727 committee, or the candidate requesting to have poll watchers.

728 (5) The supervisor of elections shall provide to each
729 designated poll watcher an identification badge which identifies
730 the poll watcher by first name and last initial. Each poll
731 watcher must wear his or her identification badge while
732 performing his or her duties. A poll watcher may not wear
733 another poll watcher's identification badge. A poll watcher who
734 wears another poll watcher's identification badge must be
735 reported to the supervisor and may be removed from the premises
736 for the day.

737 **Section 5. Section 101.132, Florida Statutes, is created**
738 **to read:**

739 101.132 Watchers at absentee vote processing centers.—

740 (1) Each political party, political action committee,
741 political committee, and candidate may designate one absentee
742 vote processing watcher to observe in each of the following work
743 areas of the absentee vote counting location or any other
744 location at any time during the election process where the
745 following functions are performed:

- 746 (a) Outgoing ballot assembly, sorting, and mailing.
747 (b) Securing of secure ballot intake stations.
748 (c) Loading and unloading of transport vehicles.
749 (d) Receiving and sorting of incoming ballots.
750 (e) Verifying voter certificate envelope signatures by an

751 automated process.

752 (f) Manual review of voter certificate envelopes.

753 (g) Review of staff signatures of cure affidavits.

754 (h) Opening of voter certificate envelopes.

755 (i) Duplication.

756 (j) Tabulation.

757 (2) (a) Each work area must be designed and arranged in
758 advance by the supervisor to provide adequate space for at least
759 four watchers at any given time. Different watchers may observe
760 simultaneously on behalf of a candidate, political party,
761 political action committee, or political committee in different
762 work areas.

763 (b) If more than two political party, political action
764 committee, political committee, or candidate watchers are
765 designated to observe in a specified work area with limited
766 space in the same time period, the first two watchers from each
767 major political party for which designations are received must
768 be allowed to observe.

769 (c) Two public watchers may also be present in each work
770 area at any given time. If more than two public watchers request
771 to observe in a specified work area with limited space in the
772 same time period, the first two watchers from different major
773 political parties for which requests are received shall be
774 allowed to observe.

775 (d) If a work area is not large enough to accommodate at

776 least four watchers, the supervisor may employ alternate
777 observation methods to enable meaningful observation by a
778 watcher, including the use of video, mirrored displays,
779 catwalks, or viewing windows. The department must provide
780 criteria for determining whether an alternate observation method
781 enables meaningful observation.

782 (e) When direct observation of manual processes or machine
783 operators is conducted, each work area is limited to one watcher
784 for each staff member conducting operations.

785 (f) Work area watchers may come as close as is reasonably
786 necessary to properly observe workers and technology without
787 impeding workflow. The absentee vote processing center watchers
788 shall furnish their own materials and necessities and may not
789 obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. Watchers shall
790 pose any questions regarding absentee vote processing procedures
791 directly to the work area supervisor for resolution. Watchers
792 may not provide work direction to absentee vote processing
793 personnel but may ask questions for understanding and offer
794 personal greetings. Each watcher must be a qualified and
795 registered elector of the county in which he or she serves. The
796 department must establish a telephone hotline through which a
797 watcher may report violations of law, including required
798 security standards, and submit a work ticket to a state
799 official.

800 (g) The department shall adopt by rule an absentee vote

801 processing manual that includes guidelines for meaningful
802 observation and reporting for all methods of observation.

803 (3) (a) The department shall prescribe an absentee vote
804 processing watcher request form that allows a person to request
805 to serve as an absentee vote processing watcher at any given
806 location and an absentee vote processing watcher designation
807 form that allows a political party, political action committee,
808 political committee, or candidate to designate a watcher for a
809 specific work area.

810 (b) A request to serve as a watcher for a political party,
811 political action committee, political committee, or candidate
812 must be accepted by the supervisor if received at least 5 days,
813 including weekends, before the first day of requested
814 observation. A watcher may complete a form for multiple
815 political parties, political action committees, political
816 committees, or candidates. A watcher is not required to be a
817 member of or align with a political party to observe vote
818 processing activities.

819 (c) Public requests to be absentee vote processing
820 watchers must be accepted by the supervisor if received at least
821 5 days, including weekends, before the first day of requested
822 observation. A watcher may alternate between work areas and
823 participate on any day of the absentee vote counting process
824 without notice.

825 (d) Different watchers may observe election activities

826 occurring simultaneously on behalf of any candidate, political
827 party, political action committee, or political committee. A
828 watcher who has previously completed an absentee vote processing
829 watcher request form that is filed with the supervisor may
830 substitute for another watcher without prior notice.

831 (e) A watcher may be relieved by another watcher
832 designated for the same political party, political action
833 committee, political committee, or candidate whenever necessary.

834 (f) The supervisor shall furnish to each canvassing board
835 member a list of watchers for whom an absentee vote processing
836 watcher request form has been approved and for whom an absentee
837 vote processing watcher designation form has been received.
838 Designation forms must be completed by the chair of the county
839 executive committee of each political party, chair of a
840 political action committee, chair of a political committee, or
841 candidate.

842 (4) A candidate or a sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a police
843 officer, or another law enforcement officer may be designated as
844 an absentee vote processing watcher.

845 (5) An absentee vote processing watcher may enter into and
846 watch operations in any work area listed in subsection (1) if
847 the number of watchers in the work area does not exceed the
848 number recommended by the department or the absentee vote
849 processing center capacity safety recommendations by the local
850 fire department.

851 (6) The supervisor shall provide to each designated
852 absentee vote processing watcher an identification badge that
853 identifies the watcher by first name and last initial. Each
854 watcher must wear his or her identification badge while
855 performing his or her duties. The designated absentee vote
856 processing watcher badge must be surrendered to the supervisor
857 at the end of the day.

858 **Section 6. Section 101.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to**
859 **read:**

860 101.21 Official ballots and envelopes; number; printing;
861 payment.—

862 (1) ~~Where applicable,~~ The supervisor of elections shall
863 determine the actual number of ballots and voter certificate
864 envelopes to be printed for each election. The ballots and voter
865 certificate envelopes must be sourced from different vendors,
866 and the voter certificate envelopes must have serial numbers or
867 other markings that may be used to detect unauthorized printing
868 or submission of illegal envelopes.

869 (2) The supervisor of elections shall complete a ballot,
870 envelope, and seal accounting report before an election may be
871 certified. The ballot, envelope, and seal accounting report must
872 reconcile the number of ballots printed by an official printer
873 or in-house with the number of ballots:

874 (a) Distributed to absentee voters.

875 (b) Distributed to in-person voting sites.

- 876 (c) Completed and received from absentee voters.
- 877 (d) Completed and received from in-person voting sites.
- 878 (e) Distributed but not returned by absentee voters.
- 879 (f) Distributed and returned unvoted from in-person voting
880 sites.
- 881 (g) Not distributed.
- 882 (h) Spoiled.
- 883 (i) Used for duplication.
- 884 (j) Placed in storage at the end of the election as voted
885 or unvoted.
- 886 (3) Review and approval of the ballot, envelope, and seal
887 accounting report must be completed and reconciled by the county
888 canvassing board before the election is certified and by a state
889 or county auditing team after the election is certified.
- 890 Purchase order records of marksense ballots and envelopes as
891 well as print-on-demand and facsimile records must be made
892 available to auditors and the public at no charge.
- 893 (4) The printing and delivery of ballots and cards of
894 instruction shall, in a municipal election, be paid for by the
895 municipality, and in all other elections by the county.
- 896 **Section 7. Section 101.545, Florida Statutes, is amended**
897 **to read:**
- 898 101.545 Retention and destruction of certain election
899 materials.—All ballots, envelopes, seals, video recordings,
900 forms, and other election materials shall be retained in the

901 custody of the supervisor of elections for a minimum of 22
902 months after an election and in accordance with the schedule
903 approved by the Division of Library and Information Services of
904 the Department of State. All unused ballots, envelopes, seals,
905 forms, and other election materials may, with the approval of
906 the Department of State, be destroyed by the supervisor after a
907 postcertification audit is completed and published on the
908 supervisor's website ~~the election for which such ballots, forms,~~
909 ~~or other election materials were to be used.~~

910 **Section 8. Section 101.5614, Florida Statutes, is amended**
911 **to read:**

912 101.5614 Canvass of returns.—

913 (1) As soon as the polls are closed, the election board
914 shall secure the voting devices against further voting. The
915 election board shall thereafter, in the presence of members of
916 the public desiring to witness the proceedings, verify the
917 number of voted ballots, unused ballots, provisional ballots,
918 and spoiled ballots to ascertain whether such number corresponds
919 with the number of ballots issued by the supervisor. If there is
920 a difference, this fact shall be reported in writing to the
921 county canvassing board with the reasons therefor if known. The
922 total number of voted ballots shall be entered on the forms
923 provided. The number of ballots processed through the tabulator
924 on election day, the number of blank ballots processed through
925 the tabulator, and the number of persons checking in at the

926 precinct shall also be entered on the forms provided. Precinct
927 poll workers shall conduct a hand-counted audit of a randomly
928 chosen race. Ballots must be placed in stacks according to the
929 candidate chosen on the ballots for that race. Those ballots
930 must be hand counted by two poll workers from different major
931 political parties, and candidate choice must be verified in the
932 process. Totals must be noted and compared to the machine count.
933 Any discrepancies must be flagged and reported to the supervisor
934 of elections office and noted on the poll tape posted for the
935 public. The supervisor shall verify any discrepancies over the
936 next 3 days with interested members of the public and a member
937 of each party present. If the supervisor determines that there
938 is a discrepancy, all ballots for the entire precinct must be
939 hand counted using the original paper ballots, and those
940 results, once verified, override the machine counts. The number
941 of tickets printed to receive ballots must be compared with the
942 number of persons noted by the electronic precinct register
943 system as checked in, and any discrepancies must be resolved or
944 documented. The proceedings of the election board at the
945 precinct after the polls have closed must ~~shall~~ be open to the
946 public; however, ~~no person~~ except for a member of the election
947 board, a person may not ~~shall~~ touch any ballot or ballot
948 container or interfere with or obstruct the orderly count of the
949 ballots.

950 (2) The results of ballots tabulated at precinct locations

951 | may be provided to the county canvassing board ~~transmitted to~~
952 | ~~the main computer system~~ for the purpose of reconciliation of
953 | chain of custody and compilation of complete returns. The
954 | tabulator may not use networking communication hardware.
955 | However, the supervisor may collect preliminary precinct
956 | election results data from tabulators using a portable storage
957 | device secure from manipulation, such as a write once, read
958 | many, or "WORM," device, and insert the data into a secure
959 | computer dedicated to transmitting such data to the elections
960 | office. The security guidelines for transmission of returns
961 | shall conform to rules adopted by the Department of State
962 | pursuant to s. 101.015.

963 | (3) For each ballot or ballot image on which write-in
964 | votes have been cast, the canvassing board shall compare the
965 | write-in votes with the votes cast on the ballot; if the total
966 | number of votes for any office exceeds the number allowed by
967 | law, such votes may ~~shall~~ not be counted. All valid votes shall
968 | be tallied by the canvassing board.

969 | (4) (a) If any vote-by-mail ballot is physically damaged so
970 | that it cannot properly be counted by the voting system's
971 | automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be
972 | made of the damaged ballot in an open and accessible room in the
973 | presence of watchers from at least two different political
974 | parties ~~witnesses~~ and substituted for the damaged ballot.
975 | Likewise, a duplicate ballot must ~~shall~~ be made of a vote-by-

976 mail ballot containing an overvoted race if there is a clear
977 indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite
978 choice in the overvoted race or ballot measure. A duplicate must
979 ~~shall~~ include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing
980 board based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s.
981 102.166(8) ~~s. 102.166(4)~~. A duplicate may be made of a ballot
982 containing an undervoted race or ballot measure if there is a
983 clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a
984 definite choice in the undervoted race or ballot measure. A
985 duplicate may not include a vote if the voter's intent in such
986 race or on such measure is not clear. Upon request, candidates,
987 political party officials, and political committee officials,
988 and authorized designees thereof, and public watchers ~~a~~
989 ~~physically present candidate, a political party official, a~~
990 ~~political committee official, or an authorized designee thereof,~~
991 must be allowed to observe the duplication of ballots upon
992 signing an affidavit affirming his or her acknowledgment that
993 disclosure of election results discerned from observing the
994 ballot duplication process while the election is ongoing is a
995 felony, as provided under subsection (8). The observer must be
996 allowed to observe the duplication of ballots in such a way that
997 the observer is able to see the markings on each ballot and the
998 duplication taking place. All duplicate ballots must be clearly
999 labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number which must ~~shall~~ be
1000 recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the

1001 defective ballot. The duplication of ballots must happen in the
1002 presence of at least one canvassing board member and watchers
1003 from at least two different political parties. After a ballot
1004 has been duplicated, the defective ballot must ~~shall~~ be placed
1005 in an envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate
1006 ballot must ~~shall~~ be tallied with the other ballots for that
1007 precinct. If any observer makes a reasonable objection to a
1008 duplicate of a ballot, the ballot must be presented to the
1009 canvassing board for a determination of the validity of the
1010 duplicate. The canvassing board must document the serial number
1011 of the ballot in the canvassing board's minutes. The canvassing
1012 board must decide whether the duplication is valid. If the
1013 duplicate ballot is determined to be valid, the duplicate ballot
1014 must be counted. If the duplicate ballot is determined to be
1015 invalid, the duplicate ballot must be rejected and a proper
1016 duplicate ballot must be made and counted in lieu of the
1017 original.

1018 (b) A true duplicate copy shall be made of each federal
1019 write-in absentee ballot in the presence of watchers ~~witnesses~~
1020 and substituted for the federal write-in absentee ballot. A
1021 duplicate may be made by hand duplication observed by watchers
1022 of both major political parties. The duplicate ballot must
1023 include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing board
1024 based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s. 102.166(8)
1025 ~~s. 102.166(4)~~. All duplicate ballots must ~~shall~~ be clearly

1026 | labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number that must ~~shall~~ be
1027 | recorded on the federal write-in absentee ballot, and be counted
1028 | in lieu of the federal write-in absentee ballot. After a ballot
1029 | has been duplicated, the federal write-in absentee ballot must
1030 | ~~shall~~ be placed in an envelope provided for that purpose, and
1031 | the duplicate ballot must ~~shall~~ be tallied with other ballots
1032 | for that precinct.

1033 | (5) If there is no clear indication on the ballot that the
1034 | voter has made a definite choice for an office or ballot
1035 | measure, the elector's ballot may ~~shall~~ not be counted for that
1036 | office or measure, but the ballot may ~~shall~~ not be invalidated
1037 | as to those names or measures which are properly marked.

1038 | (6) Vote-by-mail ballots may be counted by the voting
1039 | system's automatic tabulating equipment if they have been marked
1040 | in a manner which will enable them to be properly counted by
1041 | such equipment.

1042 | (7) The return printed by the voting system's automatic
1043 | tabulating equipment, to which has been added the return of
1044 | write-in, vote-by-mail, and manually counted votes and votes
1045 | from provisional ballots, constitutes ~~shall constitute~~ the
1046 | official return of the election upon certification by the
1047 | canvassing board. Upon completion of the count, the returns must
1048 | ~~shall~~ be open to the public. A copy of the returns may be posted
1049 | at the central counting place or at the office of the supervisor
1050 | of elections in lieu of the posting of returns at individual

1051 precincts.

1052 (8) Any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of
1053 elections, canvassing board member, election board member,
1054 election employee, or other person authorized to observe,
1055 review, or inspect ballot materials or observe canvassing who
1056 releases any information about votes cast for or against any
1057 candidate or ballot measure or any results of any election
1058 before the closing of the polls in that county on election day
1059 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in
1060 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1061 (9) The county canvassing board shall officially convene
1062 in the presence of candidates, designees of political action
1063 committees, political committees, or political parties, and the
1064 public to discuss all election results and the necessary next
1065 steps required to officially determine election results,
1066 including recounts, runoffs, hand counts, audits, or any other
1067 activities necessary before certification of the election.

1068 **Section 9. Subsection (4) is added to section 101.595,**
1069 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

1070 101.595 Analysis and reports of voting problems.—

1071 (4) A postcertification procedural audit to verify
1072 compliance with all laws and rules must be conducted after each
1073 election in counties with a population of greater than 500,000
1074 after the general election or the election with the most voters.
1075 A postcertification procedural audit shall be conducted in

1076 counties with a population of 500,000 or fewer upon request of a
1077 major political party or the Office of Election Crimes and
1078 Security and whenever a recount is conducted. If not requested
1079 or required as part of a recount, a postcertification procedural
1080 audit shall be conducted at least every 3 years after a primary,
1081 special, or general election in counties with a population of
1082 500,000 or fewer. The department shall adopt rules for the
1083 conduct of such audit, which must include separate audits to
1084 verify that each of the following are being properly conducted
1085 and comply with all requirements of law and rule:

1086 (a) Chain of custody forms and procedures.

1087 (b) Signature verification on vote-by-mail ballot
1088 requests, envelope certificates, and ballot curing.

1089 (c) Handling of public inspector protests and challenges.

1090 (d) Duties of the canvassing board.

1091 (e) Physical security, including compliance with security
1092 plan requirements.

1093 (f) Hand counting of all blank ballots, undervoted
1094 ballots, overvoted ballots, provisional ballots, and other
1095 ballots that were separated from the main bin by the tabulator
1096 or that require separate adjudication or handling for any reason
1097 to ensure that the number of ballots equals the number shown on
1098 the reports.

1099 (g) Seal accounting and management.

1100 (h) Vote-by-mail requests, including collection of voter

1101 credentials for absentee ballot requests and the timely mailing
 1102 of ballots.

1103 (i) First-time vote-by-mail identification requirements,
 1104 specifically the enforcement of ss. 101.043 and 101.6921.

1105 (j) New voter registration, specifically verification of
 1106 citizenship and documentation requirements.

1107 (k) Requirements for voter identification at polling
 1108 places.

1109 (l) Storage of ballots, election systems, and portable
 1110 data, including compliance with security plan requirements.

1111 (m) Ballot duplication and documentation.

1112 (n) Reconciliation of the number of ballots duplicated and
 1113 counted from facsimile machines and the logs from such machines.

1114 (o) Information technology audits, including compliance
 1115 with security plan requirements.

1116 (p) The composition and actions of the canvassing board.

1117 (q) Election record retention and transparency.

1118 (r) Verification of citizenship of election workers and
 1119 onsite vendor personnel.

1120 **Section 10. Section 101.6103, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 1121 **to read:**

1122 101.6103 Mail ballot election procedure.—

1123 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the
 1124 supervisor of elections shall mail all official ballots with a
 1125 voter certificate envelope, an identification ~~secrecy~~ envelope,

1126 a return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to
1127 describe the voting process to each elector entitled to vote in
1128 the election within the timeframes specified in s. 101.62(3).
1129 All such ballots must be mailed by first-class mail. If the
1130 supervisor of elections pays return ballot postage, two United
1131 States Postal Service permit billing accounts must be used, with
1132 one account used solely for outbound ballots and the other
1133 account used solely for returned ballots. Ballots must be
1134 addressed to each elector at the address appearing in the
1135 registration records and placed in an envelope which is
1136 prominently marked "Return Service Requested ~~Do Not Forward~~."

1137 (2) Upon receipt of the ballot, the elector shall read the
1138 instructions, mark the ballot, place only the completed ballot
1139 in the voter certificate ~~it in the secrecy~~ envelope, sign his or
1140 her name as it appears in the voter registration system on the
1141 signature line on the return mailing envelope supplied with the
1142 ballot, and comply with the instructions provided with the
1143 ballot. The elector shall place a copy of the required
1144 identification into the identification envelope and place the
1145 voter certificate envelope and the identification envelope into
1146 the return mailing envelope. Alternatively, the voter may place
1147 the voter certificate envelope in a voter-provided envelope and
1148 send it by registered mail at the voter's expense to the office
1149 of the supervisor of elections or the address listed on the
1150 return envelope. The elector shall mail, deliver, or have

1151 delivered the marked ballot so that it reaches the supervisor of
 1152 elections no later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. The
 1153 ballot must be returned in the sealed and signed voter
 1154 certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope.

1155 (3) The voter certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope shall
 1156 contain a statement in substantially the following form:

1158 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

1159 I, ...(Print Name)..., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I
 1160 am a qualified voter in this election and that I have not and
 1161 will not vote more than one ballot in this election.

1162 I understand that failure to sign this certificate and give
 1163 my residence address will invalidate my ballot.

1164 ...(Date)...

1165 ...(Printed Name)...

1166 ...(Signature)...

1167 ...(Residence Address)...

1168 ...(E-mail Address [Optional])...

1169 ...(Home Telephone Number [Optional])...

1170 ...(Mobile Telephone Number [Optional])...

1171
 1172 (4) If the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not
 1173 received by the elector, the elector may obtain a replacement
 1174 ballot from the supervisor of elections as provided in this
 1175 subsection. An elector seeking a replacement ballot shall

1176 provide Tier 1 identification and sign a sworn statement that
1177 the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received and
1178 present such statement to the supervisor of elections before
1179 ~~prior to~~ 7 p.m. on the day of the election. The supervisor of
1180 elections shall verify the signature on the sworn statement and
1181 keep a record of each replacement ballot provided under this
1182 subsection.

1183 (5) A ballot shall be counted only if:

1184 (a) It is returned in the voter certificate ~~return mailing~~
1185 envelope bearing the elector's signature;

1186 (b) A copy of a photo identification is placed into the
1187 identification envelope and, if the voter is required to provide
1188 additional documentation under s. 101.68, such documentation is
1189 placed into the identification envelope;

1190 (c) The voter certificate envelope and the identification
1191 envelope are placed into the return mailing envelope or a voter-
1192 provided envelope that is sent by registered mail to the office
1193 of the supervisor of election or the address listed on the
1194 return mailing envelope;

1195 (d) ~~(b)~~ The elector's signature has been verified as
1196 provided in this subsection; and

1197 (e) ~~(e)~~ It is received by the supervisor of elections not
1198 later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election.

1199
1200 The supervisor of elections shall verify the signature of each

1201 | elector on the voter certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope with
1202 | the signature on the elector's registration records. Such
1203 | verification may commence at any time before ~~prior to~~ the
1204 | canvass of votes. The supervisor of elections shall safely keep
1205 | the ballot stored in a secure area accessible only by electronic
1206 | badge and under video surveillance ~~unopened in his or her office~~
1207 | until the county canvassing board canvasses the vote. If the
1208 | supervisor of elections determines that an elector to whom a
1209 | replacement ballot has been issued under subsection (4) has
1210 | voted more than once, the canvassing board shall determine which
1211 | ballot, if any, is to be counted.

1212 | (6) The canvassing board may begin the canvassing of mail
1213 | ballots as provided by s. 101.68(2)(a). The criminal penalty
1214 | specified in that paragraph for the release of results before 7
1215 | p.m. on election day is also applicable to canvassing conducted
1216 | under this act. The canvassing of mail ballots must be open for
1217 | public observation.

1218 | (7) With respect to absent electors overseas entitled to
1219 | vote in the election, the supervisor of elections shall mail an
1220 | official ballot with a voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope, a
1221 | return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to describe
1222 | the voting process to each such elector on a date sufficient to
1223 | allow such elector time to vote in the election and to have his
1224 | or her marked ballot reach the supervisor by 7 p.m. on the day
1225 | of the election.

1226 (8) A ballot that otherwise satisfies the requirements of
 1227 subsection (5) shall be counted even if the elector dies after
 1228 mailing the ballot but before election day, as long as, before
 1229 ~~prior to~~ the death of the voter, the ballot was:

1230 (a) Postmarked by the United States Postal Service;

1231 (b) Date-stamped with a verifiable tracking number by
 1232 common carrier; or

1233 (c) Already in the possession of the supervisor of
 1234 elections.

1235 **Section 11. Section 101.6104, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 1236 **to read:**

1237 101.6104 Challenge of votes.—If any elector present for
 1238 the canvass of votes believes that any ballot is illegal due to
 1239 any defect apparent on the voter's certificate, the elector may,
 1240 at any time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file
 1241 with the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of such
 1242 ballot, specifying the reason he or she believes the ballot to
 1243 be illegal. No challenge based upon any defect on the voter's
 1244 certificate shall be accepted after the ballot has been removed
 1245 from the return mailing envelope. When a challenge of a voter
 1246 certificate envelope or cure affidavit signature is received,
 1247 the ballot must be segregated; left uncounted and, if
 1248 applicable, unopened; logged; and treated as provisional to be
 1249 reviewed before the end of canvassing. A challenger must be
 1250 given an identification number for the challenged ballot or

1251 envelope, as applicable. The identification number and the final
1252 disposition of the ballot must be logged for use in procedural
1253 audits.

1254 **Section 12. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1),**
1255 **subsection (2), and paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section**
1256 **101.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1257 101.62 Request for vote-by-mail ballots.—

1258 (1) REQUEST.—

1259 (a) The supervisor shall accept a request for a vote-by-
1260 mail ballot only from a voter or, if directly instructed by the
1261 voter, a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's
1262 legal guardian. A request may be made in person, in writing
1263 through postal mail, ~~by telephone,~~ or through the supervisor's
1264 website. The department shall prescribe by rule by October 1,
1265 2025 ~~2023,~~ a uniform statewide absentee ballot request form that
1266 must require the signature of the voter ~~application to make a~~
1267 ~~written request~~ for a vote-by-mail ballot which includes fields
1268 for all information required in this subsection. A voter may
1269 request a vote-by-mail ballot if one of the following applies to
1270 the voter:

1271 1. The voter is confined to his or her home or otherwise
1272 physically unable to vote in person, which the voter must attest
1273 to on the absentee ballot request form by providing an affidavit
1274 provided by a medical professional certifying a temporary or
1275 permanent condition. If the certification is temporary, it must

1276 include a date on which the certification is no longer valid,
1277 and the vote-by-mail authorization shall expire on that date.
1278 For a permanent condition, no future certification is required.

1279 2. The voter will be out of state during the entire voting
1280 period, which the voter must attest to on the absentee ballot
1281 request form by providing proof of his or her out-of-state
1282 location.

1283 3. The voter is enrolled in a program offered in person at
1284 an educational institution campus outside of the county in which
1285 he or she is registered, which the voter must attest to on the
1286 absentee ballot request form by providing proof of enrollment.

1287 4. The voter is a first responder or medical professional
1288 who is scheduled to work on election day, which the voter must
1289 attest to on the absentee ballot request form by providing
1290 written proof of his or her employment.

1291 5. The voter is a member of a uniformed service on active
1292 duty or a spouse or dependent of such member or a member of the
1293 merchant marine.

1294
1295 One request is deemed sufficient to receive a vote-by-mail
1296 ballot for all elections through the end of the calendar year of
1297 the next regularly scheduled general election, unless the voter
1298 or the voter's designee indicates at the time the request is
1299 made the elections within such period for which the voter
1300 desires to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. The supervisor must

1301 cancel a request for a vote-by-mail ballot when any first-class
1302 return-service-requested mail or nonforwardable mail sent by the
1303 supervisor to the voter is returned as undeliverable or when an
1304 address verification service determines that the mailing address
1305 is undeliverable. If a supervisor cancels a request for a vote-
1306 by-mail ballot, he or she must inform the voter, by all
1307 available means, that the voter must vote in person until the
1308 voter's address is updated. If the voter requests a vote-by-mail
1309 ballot thereafter, the voter must provide or confirm his or her
1310 current residential address in a written request that includes
1311 the voter's signature and the voter's Florida driver license
1312 number, the voter's Florida identification card number, or the
1313 last four digits of the voter's social security number.

1314 (b) If the voter's request meets the criteria under
1315 paragraph (a), the supervisor may accept a request for a vote-
1316 by-mail ballot to be mailed to a voter's address on file in the
1317 Florida Voter Registration System from the voter, or, if
1318 directly instructed by the voter, a member of the voter's
1319 immediate family or the voter's legal guardian. If an in-person
1320 ~~or a telephonic~~ request is made, the voter must provide the
1321 voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's Florida
1322 identification card number, or the last four digits of the
1323 voter's social security number, whichever may be verified in the
1324 supervisor's records. If the ballot is requested to be mailed to
1325 an address other than the voter's address on file in the Florida

1326 | Voter Registration System, the request must be made in writing.
 1327 | A written request must be signed by the voter and include the
 1328 | voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's Florida
 1329 | identification card number, or the last four digits of the
 1330 | voter's social security number. ~~However, an absent uniformed~~
 1331 | ~~services voter or an overseas voter seeking a vote by mail~~
 1332 | ~~ballot is not required to submit a signed, written request for a~~
 1333 | ~~vote-by-mail ballot that is being mailed to an address other~~
 1334 | ~~than the voter's address on file in the Florida Voter~~
 1335 | ~~Registration System.~~ The person making the request must
 1336 | disclose:
 1337 | 1. The name of the voter for whom the ballot is requested.
 1338 | 2. The voter's address.
 1339 | 3. The voter's date of birth.
 1340 | 4. The voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's
 1341 | Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of
 1342 | the voter's social security number, whichever may be verified in
 1343 | the supervisor's records. If the voter's registration record
 1344 | does not already include the voter's Florida driver license
 1345 | number or Florida identification card number or the last four
 1346 | digits of the voter's social security number, the number
 1347 | provided must be verified and recorded in the voter's
 1348 | registration record.
 1349 | 5. The requester's name.
 1350 | 6. The requester's address.

1351 7. The requester's driver license number, the requester's
1352 identification card number, or the last four digits of the
1353 requester's social security number, if available.

1354 8. The requester's relationship to the voter and an
1355 affirmation that the voter has not been prescribed memory care.

1356 9. The requester's signature (written requests only).

1357
1358 All signatures on the absentee ballot request form and
1359 supporting documentation shall be verified before issuing a
1360 ballot. Absentee ballot request forms missing any of the
1361 required information or documentation must be declined. A person
1362 who provides false information on an absentee ballot request
1363 form commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as
1364 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1365 (2) ACCESS TO VOTE-BY-MAIL REQUEST INFORMATION.—For each
1366 request for a vote-by-mail ballot received, the supervisor shall
1367 record the following information: the date the request was made;
1368 the identity of the voter's designee making the request, if any;
1369 the Florida driver license number, Florida identification card
1370 number, or last four digits of the social security number of the
1371 voter provided with a written request; the date the vote-by-mail
1372 ballot was delivered to the voter or the voter's designee or the
1373 date the vote-by-mail ballot was delivered to the post office or
1374 other carrier; the address to which the ballot was mailed or the
1375 identity of the voter's designee to whom the ballot was

1376 delivered; the date the ballot was received by the supervisor;
1377 the absence of the voter's signature on the voter's certificate,
1378 if applicable; whether the voter's certificate contains a
1379 signature that does not match the voter's signature in the
1380 registration books or precinct register; in the case of a
1381 signature mismatch, whether the voter was notified of the
1382 signature mismatch and sent instructions to complete a cure
1383 affidavit; and such other information he or she may deem
1384 necessary. This information must be provided in electronic
1385 format as provided by division rule. The information must be
1386 updated and made available no later than 8 a.m. of each day,
1387 including weekends, beginning 60 days before the primary until
1388 15 days after the general election and shall be
1389 contemporaneously provided to the division. This information is
1390 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and shall be made
1391 available to or reproduced only for the voter requesting the
1392 ballot, a canvassing board, an election official, a political
1393 party or official thereof, a candidate who has filed
1394 qualification papers and is opposed in an upcoming election, and
1395 registered political committees for political purposes only.

1396 (3) DELIVERY OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS.—

1397 (d) Upon a request for a vote-by-mail ballot, the
1398 supervisor shall provide a vote-by-mail ballot to each voter by
1399 whom a request for that ballot has been made, by one of the
1400 following means:

1401 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the
1402 voter's current mailing address on file with the supervisor or
1403 any other address the voter specifies in the request. The
1404 envelopes must be prominently marked "Return Service Requested
1405 ~~Do Not Forward.~~"

1406 2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine
1407 transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas
1408 voters. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter
1409 may designate in the vote-by-mail ballot request the preferred
1410 method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the
1411 method of transmission, the vote-by-mail ballot must be mailed.

1412 3. By personal delivery to the voter after vote-by-mail
1413 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day upon
1414 presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043.

1415 4. By delivery to the voter's designee after vote-by-mail
1416 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day. Any
1417 voter may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot
1418 for the voter; however, the person designated may not pick up
1419 more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election, other than the
1420 designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be
1421 picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. The
1422 designee shall provide to the supervisor the written
1423 authorization by the voter and a picture identification of the
1424 designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall
1425 state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the

1426 voter to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the voter is
1427 a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the
1428 relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the
1429 affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is
1430 authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the
1431 voter on the written authorization matches the signature of the
1432 voter on file, the supervisor must give the ballot to that
1433 designee for delivery to the voter.

1434 5. Except as provided in s. 101.655, the supervisor may
1435 not deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to a voter or a voter's
1436 designee pursuant to subparagraph 3. or subparagraph 4.,
1437 respectively, during the mandatory early voting period and up to
1438 7 p.m. on election day, unless there is an emergency, to the
1439 extent that the voter will be unable to go to a designated early
1440 voting site in his or her county or to his or her assigned
1441 polling place on election day. If a vote-by-mail ballot is
1442 delivered, the voter or his or her designee must execute an
1443 affidavit affirming to the facts which allow for delivery of the
1444 vote-by-mail ballot. The department shall adopt a rule providing
1445 for the form of the affidavit.

1446 **Section 13. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) and**
1447 **subsection (5) of section 101.64, Florida Statutes, are amended**
1448 **to read:**

1449 101.64 Delivery of vote-by-mail ballots; envelopes; form.—
1450 (1) (a) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail

1451 | ballot instructions on completing and returning a ballot, a
 1452 | voter certificate envelope, an identification envelope, and a
 1453 | return ~~two envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the absent~~
 1454 | ~~elector shall enclose his or her marked ballot; and a mailing~~
 1455 | envelope, into which the absent elector shall then place the
 1456 | voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope, which shall be addressed to
 1457 | the supervisor and also bear on the back side a certificate in
 1458 | substantially the following form:

1459 |
 1460 | Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before
 1461 | Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

1462 |
 1463 | VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

1464 | I,, do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified
 1465 | and registered voter of County, Florida, and that I have
 1466 | not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I
 1467 | understand that if I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in
 1468 | connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more
 1469 | than once in an election, I can be convicted of a felony of the
 1470 | third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to
 1471 | 5 years. I also understand that failure to sign this certificate
 1472 | will invalidate my ballot.

1473 | ... (Date) ...

1474 | ... (Voter's Printed Name) ...

1475 | ... (Voter's Signature) ...

1476 | ...(E-Mail Address) [Optional]...
 1477 | ...(Home Telephone Number) [Optional]...
 1478 | ...(Mobile Telephone Number) [Optional]...

1479 |
 1480 | (c) A mailing envelope or voter certificate ~~secrecy~~
 1481 | envelope may not bear any indication of the political
 1482 | affiliation of an absent elector.

1483 | (5) The voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope must include,
 1484 | in bold font, substantially the following message:

1485 |
 1486 | IN ORDER FOR YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT TO COUNT, YOUR SUPERVISOR
 1487 | OF ELECTIONS MUST RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT BY 7 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.
 1488 | IF YOU WAIT TO MAIL YOUR BALLOT, YOUR VOTE MIGHT NOT COUNT. TO
 1489 | PREVENT THIS FROM OCCURRING, PLEASE MAIL OR TURN IN YOUR BALLOT
 1490 | AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

1491 | **Section 14. Section 101.65, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 1492 | **to read:**

1493 | 101.65 Instructions to absent electors.—The supervisor
 1494 | shall enclose with each vote-by-mail ballot separate printed
 1495 | instructions in substantially the following form; however, where
 1496 | the instructions appear in capitalized text, the text of the
 1497 | printed instructions must be in bold font:

1498 |
 1499 | READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
 1500 | BEFORE MARKING BALLOT.

1501
1502 1. VERY IMPORTANT. In order to ensure that your vote-by-
1503 mail ballot will be counted, it should be completed and returned
1504 as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of
1505 elections of the county in which your precinct is located no
1506 later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. However, if you
1507 are an overseas voter casting a ballot in a presidential
1508 preference primary or general election, your vote-by-mail ballot
1509 must be postmarked or dated no later than the date of the
1510 election and received by the supervisor of elections of the
1511 county in which you are registered to vote no later than 10 days
1512 after the date of the election. Note that the later you return
1513 your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any signature
1514 deficiencies, which is authorized until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day
1515 after the election.

1516 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.
1517 You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so
1518 because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

1519 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for
1520 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote
1521 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one candidate,
1522 your vote in that race will not be counted.

1523 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed voter
1524 certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope. Completely fill out the voter's
1525 certificate on the back of the voter certificate envelope.

1526 5. Insert a copy of your photo identification in the
 1527 identification envelope. The following photo identifications are
 1528 acceptable if you are not a first-time voter: Florida driver
 1529 license; Florida identification card issued by the Department of
 1530 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; United States passport; debit
 1531 or credit card; military identification; student identification;
 1532 public assistance identification; veteran health identification
 1533 card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
 1534 a license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm
 1535 issued pursuant to s. 790.06, Florida Statutes; or an employee
 1536 identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or
 1537 entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a
 1538 municipality.

1539 ~~6.5.~~ Insert the voter certificate envelope and the
 1540 identification ~~secrecy~~ envelope into the enclosed mailing
 1541 envelope which is addressed to the supervisor.

1542 ~~7.6.~~ Seal the mailing envelope and ~~completely fill out the~~
 1543 ~~Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.~~

1544 ~~8.7.~~ VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-mail ballot
 1545 to be counted, you must sign your name on the line above
 1546 (Voter's Signature). If your signature does not appear on the
 1547 designated signature line adjacent to the voter certificate oath
 1548 on the voter's certificate, you are required to complete a cure
 1549 affidavit to validate your signature. A vote-by-mail ballot will
 1550 be considered illegal and not be counted if the signature on the

1551 voter's certificate does not match the signature on record. The
1552 signature on file at the time the supervisor of elections in the
1553 county in which your precinct is located receives your vote-by-
1554 mail ballot is the signature that will be used to verify your
1555 signature on the voter's certificate. If you need to update your
1556 signature for this election, send your signature update on a
1557 voter registration application to your supervisor of elections
1558 so that it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is
1559 received.

1560 ~~9.8.~~ VERY IMPORTANT. If you are an overseas voter, you
1561 must include the date you signed the Voter's Certificate on the
1562 line above (Date) or your ballot may not be counted.

1563 ~~10.9.~~ Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed
1564 mailing envelope. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed.
1565 THE COMPLETED MAILING ENVELOPE CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF
1566 THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR PRECINCT
1567 IS LOCATED OR DROPPED OFF AT AN AUTHORIZED SECURE BALLOT INTAKE
1568 STATION, AVAILABLE AT EACH EARLY VOTING LOCATION.

1569 ~~11.10.~~ FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to
1570 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote
1571 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote
1572 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under
1573 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

1574 **Section 15. Section 101.655, Florida Statutes, is amended**
1575 **to read:**

1576 101.655 Supervised voting by absent electors in certain
1577 facilities.—

1578 (1) The supervisor of elections of a county shall provide
1579 bipartisan supervised voting for absent electors residing in any
1580 assisted living facility, as defined in s. 429.02, or nursing
1581 home facility, as defined in s. 400.021, within that county at
1582 the request of an elector living in the facility or the power of
1583 attorney for an elector living in the ~~of any administrator of~~
1584 ~~such a~~ facility. Such request for supervised voting in the
1585 facility shall be made by submitting a written request to the
1586 supervisor of elections no later than 28 days before ~~prior to~~
1587 the election for which that request is submitted. The request
1588 shall specify the name and address of the facility and the name
1589 of the electors who wish to vote by mail in that election. If
1590 the request contains the names of fewer than five voters, the
1591 supervisor of elections is not required to provide supervised
1592 voting.

1593 (2) The supervisor of elections may, ~~in the absence of a~~
1594 ~~request from the administrator of a facility,~~ provide for
1595 supervised voting in the facility for those persons who have
1596 requested vote-by-mail ballots and voting assistance. The
1597 supervisor of elections shall notify the administrator of the
1598 facility that supervised voting will occur.

1599 (3) The supervisor of elections shall, in cooperation with
1600 the administrator of the facility, select a date and time when

1601 the supervised voting will occur.

1602 (4) The supervisor of elections shall designate supervised
1603 voting teams to provide the services prescribed by this section.
1604 Each supervised voting team shall include at least two persons.
1605 Each supervised voting team must include representatives of more
1606 than one political party; however, in any primary election to
1607 nominate party nominees in which only one party has candidates
1608 appearing on the ballot, all supervised voting team members may
1609 be of that party. No candidate may provide supervised voting
1610 services.

1611 (5) Ballots must be placed in a sealed envelope for
1612 transport to the facility to be delivered to respective absent
1613 electors. Chain of custody forms must include fields for the
1614 name of the facility, the date, the time, the printed names and
1615 signatures of each person on the supervised voting team assigned
1616 to the facility, the number of ballots delivered to the
1617 facility, the envelope seal number, and the printed names and
1618 signatures of each person on the supervised voting team who
1619 opens the envelope.

1620 (6) The seal on the envelope must be maintained until the
1621 supervised voting team is in the facility.

1622 (7)~~(5)~~ The supervised voting team shall deliver the
1623 ballots to the respective absent electors, and each member of
1624 the team shall jointly supervise the voting of the ballots. If
1625 any elector requests assistance in voting, the oath prescribed

1626 in s. 101.051 shall be completed and the elector may receive the
1627 assistance of two members of the supervised voting team or some
1628 other person of the elector's choice to assist the elector in
1629 casting the elector's ballot.

1630 (8)~~(6)~~ Before providing assistance, the supervised voting
1631 team must ~~shall~~ disclose to the elector that the ballot may be
1632 retained by the elector to vote at a later time and that the
1633 elector has the right to seek assistance in voting from some
1634 other person of the elector's choice without the presence of the
1635 supervised voting team.

1636 (9) Before providing assistance, the supervised voting
1637 team must verify the identity of the elector by photo
1638 identification and attestation by a facility administrator.

1639 (10)~~(7)~~ If any elector declines to vote a ballot or is
1640 unable to vote a ballot, the supervised voting team must ~~shall~~
1641 mark the ballot "refused to vote" or "unable to vote."

1642 (11)~~(8)~~ After the ballots have been voted or marked in
1643 accordance with the provisions of this section, the supervised
1644 voting team shall place the completed and remaining blank
1645 ballots in a sealable envelope and deliver the ballots to the
1646 supervisor of elections, who shall retain them pursuant to s.
1647 101.67.

1648 (12) The chain of custody forms for ballots transported by
1649 supervised voting teams and completed by absent electors in the
1650 facilities must include fields for the printed names and

1651 signatures of two supervised voting team members, the date, the
1652 time, the number of absentee ballots transported to the facility
1653 in which the elector lives, the number of absentee ballots
1654 completed and returned to the supervisor, the number of absentee
1655 ballots retained by electors to be cast at a later date, the
1656 voter identifications of electors who retained ballots, and seal
1657 numbers.

1658 (13) The names of electors living in the facility who
1659 complete ballots, the names of electors living in the facility
1660 who refuse to vote, and the names of electors living in the
1661 facility who retain ballots to be cast at a later date must be
1662 logged and reported to the supervisor of elections by the
1663 supervised voting team.

1664 (14) Cast ballots in sealed envelopes from supervised
1665 voting for absent electors residing in an assisted living
1666 facility or a nursing home facility must be returned to the
1667 supervisor of elections for tabulation and retention pursuant to
1668 s. 101.67.

1669 (15) The chain of custody forms for ballots transported by
1670 supervised voting teams and completed by absent electors in the
1671 facilities must include fields for the name of the facility, the
1672 printed names and signatures of two members of the vote counting
1673 center who accept custody of the cast ballots, the date, the
1674 time, the seal number, a checkbox to confirm that the seal is
1675 intact, and the number of absentee ballots received by the vote

1676 counting center from the facility.

1677 (16) The county canvassing board shall validate chain of
 1678 custody records for ballots received from supervised voting by
 1679 absent electors in the facilities as the ballots are returned.

1680 **Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and**
 1681 **subsections (2) and (4) of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, are**
 1682 **amended to read:**

1683 101.68 Canvassing of vote-by-mail ballot.-

1684 (1) (a) The supervisor of the county in which ~~where~~ the
 1685 absent elector resides shall receive the voted ballot, verify
 1686 that the certificate signature is a personal and manual
 1687 signature that was not created by a rubber stamp or an
 1688 electronic machine, verify that the voter certificate envelope
 1689 and ballot material are consistent with the quality and serial
 1690 number sequence issued, and at which time the supervisor shall
 1691 compare the signature of the elector on the voter's certificate
 1692 with the signature of the elector in the registration books or
 1693 the precinct register to determine whether the elector is duly
 1694 registered in the county and must record on the elector's
 1695 registration record that the elector has voted. The supervisor
 1696 shall also evaluate whether the photo identification provided is
 1697 consistent with any Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 1698 Vehicles photographs of the elector available. During the
 1699 signature comparison process, the supervisor may not use any
 1700 knowledge of the political affiliation of the elector whose

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1701 signature is subject to verification.

1702 (2) (a) The county canvassing board may begin the
1703 canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots upon the completion of the
1704 public testing of automatic tabulating equipment pursuant to s.
1705 101.5612(2), but must complete canvassing of all ballots
1706 received at the end of election day ~~begin such canvassing~~ by no
1707 later than the end of the following ~~noon on the day following~~
1708 ~~the election~~. However, notwithstanding any such authorization to
1709 begin canvassing or otherwise processing vote-by-mail ballots
1710 early, no result shall be released to the state or to the public
1711 until after the closing of the polls in that county on election
1712 day. Any supervisor, deputy supervisor, canvassing board member,
1713 election board member, or election employee who releases the
1714 results of a canvassing or processing of vote-by-mail ballots
1715 before ~~prior to~~ the closing of the polls in that county on
1716 election day commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as
1717 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1718 (b) To ensure that all vote-by-mail ballots to be counted
1719 by the canvassing board are accounted for, the canvassing board
1720 shall compare the number of ballots in its possession with the
1721 number of requests for ballots received to be counted according
1722 to the ballot chain of custody records and ballot reconciliation
1723 report, the supervisor's ballot accounting report, and the
1724 supervisor's file or list.

1725 (c)1. The canvassing board must, if the supervisor has not

1726 already done so, compare the signature of the elector on the
1727 voter's certificate or on the vote-by-mail ballot cure affidavit
1728 as provided in subsection (4) with the signature of the elector
1729 in the registration books or the precinct register to see that
1730 the elector is duly registered in the county and to determine
1731 the legality of that vote-by-mail ballot. A vote-by-mail ballot
1732 may only be counted if:

1733 a. The signature on the voter's certificate or the cure
1734 affidavit matches the elector's signature in the registration
1735 books or precinct register; however, in the case of a cure
1736 affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subsection
1737 (4) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

1738 b. The cure affidavit contains a signature that does not
1739 match the elector's signature in the registration books or
1740 precinct register, but the elector has submitted a current and
1741 valid Tier 1 identification pursuant to subsection (4) which
1742 confirms the identity of the elector. Tier 1 or Tier 2
1743 identification is considered ballot material for purposes of s.
1744 101.572 and must be presented to any candidates, political party
1745 officials, political committee officials, and political action
1746 committee officials, or authorized designees thereof, conducting
1747 a cure affidavit review.

1748
1749 For purposes of this subparagraph, any canvassing board finding
1750 that an elector's signatures do not match must be by majority

1751 | vote and beyond a reasonable doubt.

1752 | 2. The ballot of an elector who casts a vote-by-mail
1753 | ballot shall be counted even if the elector dies on or before
1754 | election day, as long as, before the death of the voter, the
1755 | ballot was postmarked by the United States Postal Service, date-
1756 | stamped with a verifiable tracking number by a common carrier,
1757 | or already in the possession of the supervisor.

1758 | 3. A vote-by-mail ballot is not considered illegal if the
1759 | signature of the elector does not cross the seal of the mailing
1760 | envelope. However, an envelope that appears to have been opened
1761 | and resealed or that displays an unauthorized serial number
1762 | instead of an authorized serial number is considered illegal.

1763 | 4. If any elector or candidate present believes that a
1764 | vote-by-mail ballot is illegal due to a defect apparent on the
1765 | voter's certificate or the cure affidavit, he or she may, at any
1766 | time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file with
1767 | the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of that
1768 | ballot, specifying the precinct, the voter's certificate or the
1769 | cure affidavit, and the reason he or she believes the ballot to
1770 | be illegal. A challenge based upon a defect in the voter's
1771 | certificate or cure affidavit may not be accepted after the
1772 | ballot has been removed from the mailing envelope. A log must be
1773 | kept of all challenges, the voter identification, the
1774 | resolution, and the signatures compared. The log, the cure
1775 | affidavit with accompanying Tier 1 or Tier 2 identification, if

1776 applicable, the envelope, and the ballot, if rejected, therein
1777 must be preserved in the manner that official ballots are
1778 preserved as election materials. The log and decisions must be
1779 reviewed as part of a postelection process audit.

1780 5. If the canvassing board determines that a ballot is
1781 illegal, a member of the board must, without opening the
1782 envelope, mark across the face of the envelope: "rejected as
1783 illegal." The cure affidavit with accompanying Tier 1 or Tier 2
1784 identification, if applicable, the envelope, and the ballot
1785 therein shall be preserved in the manner that official ballots
1786 are preserved as election materials.

1787 (d) The canvassing board shall record the ballot upon the
1788 proper record, unless the ballot has been previously recorded by
1789 the supervisor. The mailing envelopes shall be opened and the
1790 voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelopes shall be mixed so as to make
1791 it impossible to determine which voter certificate ~~secrecy~~
1792 envelope came out of which signed mailing envelope; however, in
1793 any county in which an electronic or electromechanical voting
1794 system is used, the ballots may be sorted by ballot styles and
1795 the mailing envelopes may be opened and the voter certificate
1796 ~~secrecy~~ envelopes mixed separately for each ballot style. The
1797 votes on vote-by-mail ballots shall be included in the total
1798 vote of the county.

1799 (4) (a) As soon as practicable, the supervisor shall, on
1800 behalf of the county canvassing board, attempt to notify an

1801 elector who has returned a vote-by-mail ballot that does not
1802 include the elector's signature or contains a signature that
1803 does not match the elector's signature in the registration books
1804 or precinct register by:

1805 1. Notifying the elector of the signature deficiency by e-
1806 mail with a direct link to the supervisor's website ~~and~~
1807 directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions ~~on~~
1808 ~~the supervisor's website;~~

1809 2. Notifying the elector of the signature deficiency by
1810 text message with a direct link to the supervisor's website ~~and~~
1811 directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions ~~on~~
1812 ~~the supervisor's website;~~ or

1813 3. Notifying the elector of the signature deficiency by
1814 telephone and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and
1815 instructions on the supervisor's website.

1816
1817 In addition to the notification required under subparagraph 1.,
1818 subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the supervisor must notify
1819 the elector of the signature deficiency by first-class mail and
1820 direct the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the
1821 supervisor's website. Beginning the day before the election, the
1822 supervisor is not required to provide notice of the signature
1823 deficiency by first-class mail, but shall continue to provide
1824 notice as required under subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or
1825 subparagraph 3.

1826 (b) The supervisor shall allow such an elector to complete
 1827 and submit an affidavit in order to cure the vote-by-mail ballot
 1828 until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election.

1829 (c) The elector must complete a cure affidavit in
 1830 substantially the following form:

1831
 1832 VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT CURE AFFIDAVIT
 1833

1834 I,, am a qualified voter in this election and
 1835 registered voter of County, Florida. I do solemnly swear or
 1836 affirm that I requested and returned the vote-by-mail ballot and
 1837 that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this
 1838 election. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in
 1839 connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more
 1840 than once in an election, I may be convicted of a felony of the
 1841 third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and imprisoned for up to 5
 1842 years. I understand that my failure to sign this affidavit means
 1843 that my vote-by-mail ballot will be invalidated.

1844 ...(Date)...

1845 ...(Voter's Printed Name)...

1846 ...(Voter's Signature)...

1847 ...(Voter's E-mail Address) [Optional]...

1848 ...(Voter's Home Telephone Number) [Optional]...

1849 ...(Voter's Mobile Telephone Number) [Optional]...

1850 ...(Address)...

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

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

1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail 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 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election.

2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's Signature).

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

a. Tier 1 identification.—Current and valid identification that includes your name and photograph: Florida driver license; Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; United States passport; debit or credit card; military identification; student identification; ~~retirement center identification; neighborhood association identification;~~ public assistance identification; veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of

1876 Veterans Affairs; a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon
1877 or firearm; or an employee identification card issued by any
1878 branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government,
1879 the state, a county, or a municipality; or

1880 b. Tier 2 identification.—ONLY IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A TIER 1
1881 FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, identification that shows your name and
1882 current residence address: current utility bill, bank statement,
1883 government check, paycheck, or government document (excluding
1884 voter information card).

1885 4. Place the envelope bearing the affidavit into a mailing
1886 envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert a copy of your
1887 identification in the mailing envelope. Mail (if time permits),
1888 deliver, or have delivered the completed affidavit along with
1889 the copy of your identification to your county supervisor of
1890 elections. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed and
1891 that the supervisor's address is correct. Remember, your
1892 information MUST reach your county supervisor of elections no
1893 later than 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election, or your
1894 ballot will not count.

1895 5. Alternatively, you may fax or e-mail your completed
1896 affidavit and a copy of your identification to the supervisor of
1897 elections. If e-mailing, please provide these documents as
1898 attachments.

1899
1900 (e) The department and each supervisor shall include the

1901 affidavit and instructions on their respective websites. The
1902 supervisor must include his or her office's mailing address, e-
1903 mail address, and fax number on the page containing the
1904 affidavit instructions, and the department's instruction page
1905 must include the office mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and
1906 fax numbers of all supervisors of elections or provide a
1907 conspicuous link to such addresses.

1908 (f) The supervisor shall attach each affidavit and Tier 1
1909 or Tier 2 identification received to the appropriate voter
1910 certificate ~~vote by mail ballot mailing~~ envelope.

1911 (g) A designee for a candidate, political committee,
1912 political action committee, or political party may inspect all
1913 ballot materials in accordance with s. 101.572, including Tier 1
1914 and Tier 2 identification necessary to accept or reject a ballot
1915 certificate signature match.

1916 (h) A voter signature mismatch on a voter certificate
1917 envelope that is rejected by the county canvassing board must be
1918 cured by the elector before his or her signature may be accepted
1919 and his or her vote may be counted. The elector shall complete a
1920 cure affidavit and return to the county canvassing board the
1921 affidavit and Tier 1 or Tier 2 identification.

1922 (i) The voter certificate envelope, the cure affidavit,
1923 and the Tier 1 or Tier 2 identification are considered ballot
1924 materials under s. 101.572. These ballot materials provide
1925 supporting evidence to accept or reject a signature on a

1926 certificate and shall be reviewed by the canvassing board and
1927 made available to a designee for a candidate, political
1928 committee, political action committee, or political party.

1929 (j) The supervisor shall provide to the designee for a
1930 candidate, political committee, political action committee, or
1931 political party access to any materials considered ballot
1932 materials under s. 101.572 which are necessary to complete the
1933 task of cure affidavit review. A time must be arranged each day
1934 and made open to the public for a designee for a candidate,
1935 political committee, political action committee, or political
1936 party to complete a cure affidavit review of unique returned
1937 cure affidavits that have been returned since the previous day.
1938 As long as the vote counting center is open to the public, the
1939 supervisor may not limit the time necessary for a designee for a
1940 candidate, political committee, political action committee, or
1941 political party to complete a cure affidavit review of ballot
1942 materials.

1943 (k)~~(g)~~ If a vote-by-mail ballot is validated following the
1944 submission of a cure affidavit, the supervisor shall make a copy
1945 of the affidavit, affix it to a voter registration application,
1946 and immediately process it as a valid request for a signature
1947 update pursuant to s. 98.077.

1948 (l) A log must be kept of cure challenges levied by public
1949 inspectors, including the voter name, the voter identification,
1950 the voter precinct, the reason for the cure affidavit, the

1951 reason the voter certificate envelope was initially rejected,
1952 the reason for any challenges made to the cure affidavit
1953 signature, the Tier 1 or Tier 2 identification, and the final
1954 disposition of the cure affidavit.

1955 1. The log, the cure affidavit, if applicable, the
1956 envelope, and the ballot, if rejected, must be preserved in the
1957 same manner that official ballots are preserved. The log and
1958 decisions must be reviewed as part of a postelection process
1959 audit, and cure reports must be made available to the public by
1960 precinct.

1961 2. If a designee protests a cure affidavit and the protest
1962 is subsequently rejected by the county canvassing board, the
1963 ballot must be counted as a cast vote and entered into the final
1964 vote count. The county canvassing board shall record in the log
1965 the reason for the protest, the reason for the protest
1966 rejection, the voter identification, the voter precinct, the
1967 reason the cure affidavit was required, and the voter
1968 certificate envelope that was originally rejected.

1969 3. Daily county canvassing board minutes must contain
1970 board decisions relating to cure affidavits, including the voter
1971 identification and precinct discussed.

1972 (m) ~~(h)~~ After all election results on the ballot have been
1973 certified, the supervisor shall, on behalf of the county
1974 canvassing board, notify each elector whose ballot has been
1975 rejected as illegal and provide the specific reason the ballot

1976 | was rejected. The supervisor shall research the elector whose
 1977 | ballot was rejected as illegal using all available resources to
 1978 | determine whether the elector is still eligible to vote. If the
 1979 | elector is determined to be eligible to vote ~~In addition~~, unless
 1980 | processed as a signature update pursuant to paragraph (k) ~~(g)~~,
 1981 | the supervisor shall mail a voter registration application to
 1982 | the elector to be completed indicating the elector's current
 1983 | signature if the signature on the voter's certificate or cure
 1984 | affidavit did not match the elector's signature in the
 1985 | registration books or precinct register.

1986 | (n) Any information not confidential or exempt from s.
 1987 | 119.07(1) must be made available to candidate, political party,
 1988 | or political committee designees, including information on
 1989 | electors who are notified of a signature mismatch and
 1990 | instructions to complete a cure affidavit by the supervisor.

1991 | **Section 17. Section 101.69, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 1992 | **to read:**

1993 | 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.—

1994 | (1) The provisions of this code shall not be construed to
 1995 | prohibit any elector from voting in person at the elector's
 1996 | precinct on the day of an election or at an early voting site,
 1997 | notwithstanding that the elector has requested a vote-by-mail
 1998 | ballot for that election. An elector who has returned a voted
 1999 | vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor, however, is deemed to
 2000 | have cast his or her ballot and is not entitled to vote another

2001 ballot or to have a provisional ballot counted by the county
2002 canvassing board. An elector who has received a vote-by-mail
2003 ballot and has not returned the voted ballot to the supervisor,
2004 but desires to vote in person, shall return the ballot, whether
2005 voted or not, to the election board in the elector's precinct or
2006 to an early voting site. The returned ballot voter certificate
2007 envelope containing an uncast ballot must be marked "canceled"
2008 with a permanent marker. In the presence of the elector and a
2009 second poll worker, a member of the board shall open the voter
2010 certificate envelope and mark "canceled" with a permanent marker
2011 across the ballot and place the ballot ~~shall be marked~~
2012 ~~"canceled" by the board and placed~~ with other canceled ballots.
2013 However, if the elector does not return the ballot and the
2014 election official:

2015 (a) Confirms that the supervisor has received the
2016 elector's vote-by-mail ballot, the elector shall not be allowed
2017 to vote in person. If the elector maintains that he or she has
2018 not returned the vote-by-mail ballot or remains eligible to
2019 vote, the elector shall be provided a provisional ballot as
2020 provided in s. 101.048.

2021 (b) Confirms that the supervisor has not received the
2022 elector's vote-by-mail ballot, the elector shall be allowed to
2023 vote in person as provided in this code. The elector's vote-by-
2024 mail ballot, if subsequently received, shall not be counted and
2025 shall remain in the mailing envelope, and the envelope shall be

2026 marked "Rejected as Illegal 2nd Ballot." If it is determined
2027 that the signature on the voter certificate envelope does not
2028 match the voter's signature, the vote-by-mail ballot and voter
2029 certificate envelope must be submitted to the Office of Election
2030 Crimes and Security for investigation.

2031 (c) Cannot determine whether the supervisor has received
2032 the elector's vote-by-mail ballot, the elector may vote a
2033 provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.

2034 (2) (a) The supervisor shall allow an elector who has
2035 received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted
2036 vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail
2037 envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot
2038 intake station. Secure ballot intake stations shall be placed at
2039 the main office of the supervisor, at each permanent branch
2040 office of the supervisor which meets the criteria set forth in
2041 s. 101.657(1) (a) for branch offices used for early voting and
2042 which is open for at least the minimum number of hours
2043 prescribed by s. 98.015(4), and inside ~~at~~ each early voting
2044 site. ~~Secure ballot intake stations may also be placed at any~~
2045 ~~other site that would otherwise qualify as an early voting site~~
2046 ~~under s. 101.657(1). Secure ballot intake stations must be~~
2047 ~~geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county~~
2048 ~~with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is~~
2049 ~~practicable. Except for secure ballot intake stations at an~~
2050 ~~office of the supervisor,~~ A secure ballot intake station may

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2051 only be used during the county's early voting hours of operation
2052 if it is located inside an early voting site or inside an office
2053 of the supervisor and must be monitored in person by an employee
2054 of the supervisor's office. A secure ballot intake station at an
2055 office of the supervisor must be continuously monitored in
2056 person by an employee of the supervisor's office when the secure
2057 ballot intake station is accessible for deposit of ballots.

2058 (b) A supervisor shall designate each secure ballot intake
2059 station location at least 30 days before an election. The
2060 supervisor shall provide the address of each secure ballot
2061 intake station location to the division at least 30 days before
2062 an election. After a secure ballot intake station location has
2063 been designated, it may not be moved or changed except as
2064 approved by the division to correct a violation of this
2065 subsection.

2066 (c)1. On each day of early voting, all secure ballot
2067 intake stations must be inspected to verify that no ballots are
2068 present at the start of early voting hours and must be emptied
2069 at the end of early voting hours. ~~and~~ All ballots retrieved from
2070 the secure ballot intake stations must be returned to the
2071 supervisor's office using the chain of custody standards
2072 required under s. 101.015.

2073 2. For secure ballot intake stations located at an office
2074 of the supervisor, all ballots must be retrieved before the
2075 secure ballot intake station is no longer monitored by an

2076 | employee of the supervisor.

2077 | 3. Employees of the supervisor must comply with procedures
2078 | for the chain of custody of ballots as required by s.
2079 | 101.015(4).

2080 | (3) If any secure ballot intake station is left accessible
2081 | for ballot receipt other than as authorized by this section or a
2082 | secure intake station is deployed which does not meet department
2083 | standards, the supervisor is subject to a civil penalty of
2084 | \$25,000. The division is authorized to enforce this provision.

2085 | **Section 18. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 101.6921,**
2086 | **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

2087 | 101.6921 Delivery of special vote-by-mail ballot to
2088 | certain first-time voters.—

2089 | (2) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
2090 | ballot three envelopes: ~~a secrecy envelope, into which the~~
2091 | ~~absent elector will enclose his or her marked ballot;~~ an
2092 | envelope containing the Voter's Certificate; an identification
2093 | envelope, into which the absent elector shall place the secrecy
2094 | ~~envelope;~~ and a mailing envelope, which shall be addressed to
2095 | the supervisor and into which the absent elector will place the
2096 | envelope containing the Voter's Certificate and the
2097 | identification envelope containing a copy of the required
2098 | identification.

2099 | (3) The Voter's Certificate shall be in substantially the
2100 | following form:

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2110
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2123
2124
2125

Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before
Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

I,, do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified and registered voter of County, Florida, and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I understand that if I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more than once in an election, I can be convicted of a felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years. I also understand that failure to sign this certificate will invalidate my ballot. I understand that unless I meet one of the exemptions below, I must provide a copy of a current and valid identification as provided in the instruction sheet to the supervisor of elections in order for my ballot to count.

I further certify that I am exempt from the requirements to furnish a copy of a current and valid identification with my ballot because of one or more of the following (check all that apply):

- ~~I am 65 years of age or older.~~
- I have a permanent or temporary physical disability and have included a copy of a doctor's note or social security

2126 disability document.

2127 I am a member of a uniformed service on active duty who,
2128 by reason of such active duty, will be absent from the county on
2129 election day and have included a copy of my current military
2130 identification.

2131 I am a member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason of
2132 service in the Merchant Marine, will be absent from the county
2133 on election day and have included a copy of my current Merchant
2134 Marine identification.

2135 I am the spouse or dependent of a member of the uniformed
2136 service or Merchant Marine who, by reason of the active duty or
2137 service of the member, will be absent from the county on
2138 election day and have included a copy of my uniformed services
2139 dependent identification.

2140 I am currently residing outside the United States and
2141 have included a copy of one of the following that shows my name
2142 and my former Florida address and the address at which I reside
2143 outside the United States:

2144 1. Utility bill.

2145 2. Bank statement.

2146 3. Government-issued check.

2147 4. Paycheck.

2148 5. Other government document, excluding a voter

2149 identification card.

2150

2151 ... (Date) ...
 2152 ... (Voter's Printed Name) ...
 2153 ... (Voter's Signature) ...
 2154 ... (Voter's E-mail Address) [Optional] ...
 2155 ... (Voter's Home Telephone Number) [Optional] ...
 2156 ... (Voter's Mobile Telephone Number) [Optional] ...

2157 **Section 19. Subsection (2) of section 101.6923, Florida**
 2158 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

2159 101.6923 Special vote-by-mail ballot instructions for
 2160 certain first-time voters.—

2161 (2) A voter covered by this section must be provided with
 2162 printed instructions with his or her vote-by-mail ballot in
 2163 substantially the following form:

2164
 2165 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE MARKING YOUR
 2166 BALLOT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE
 2167 YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

2168
 2169 1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail ballot will
 2170 be counted, it should be completed and returned as soon as
 2171 possible so that it can reach the supervisor of elections of the
 2172 county in which your precinct is located no later than 7 p.m. on
 2173 the date of the election. However, if you are an overseas voter
 2174 casting a ballot in a presidential preference primary or general
 2175 election, your vote-by-mail ballot must be postmarked or dated

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2176 no later than the date of the election and received by the
2177 supervisor of elections of the county in which you are
2178 registered to vote no later than 10 days after the date of the
2179 election. Note that the later you return your ballot, the less
2180 time you will have to cure signature deficiencies, which is
2181 authorized until 5 p.m. local time on the 2nd day after the
2182 election.

2183 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.
2184 You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so
2185 because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

2186 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for
2187 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote
2188 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one, your vote in
2189 that race will not be counted.

2190 4. Place your marked ballot ~~in the enclosed secrecy~~
2191 ~~envelope and seal the envelope.~~

2192 5. ~~Insert the secrecy envelope~~ into the enclosed envelope
2193 bearing the Voter's Certificate. Seal the envelope and
2194 completely fill out the Voter's Certificate on the back of the
2195 envelope.

2196 a. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's
2197 Signature).

2198 b. If you are an overseas voter, you must include the date
2199 you signed the Voter's Certificate on the line above (Date) or
2200 your ballot may not be counted.

2201 c. A vote-by-mail ballot will be considered illegal and
 2202 will not be counted if the signature on the Voter's Certificate
 2203 does not match the signature on record. The signature on file at
 2204 the start of the canvass of the vote-by-mail ballots is the
 2205 signature that will be used to verify your signature on the
 2206 Voter's Certificate. If you need to update your signature for
 2207 this election, send your signature update on a voter
 2208 registration application to your supervisor of elections so that
 2209 it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is received.

2210 5.a. If you have registered to vote without a driver
 2211 license or Florida identification card and have not previously
 2212 provided one of the following forms of identification to an
 2213 election official ~~6. Unless you meet one of the exemptions in~~
 2214 ~~Item 7.~~, you must make a copy of one of the following forms of
 2215 identification:

2216 (I) A United States passport; or

2217 (II) (A) A United States birth certificate, United States
 2218 naturalization papers, a consular report of birth abroad
 2219 provided by the United States Department of State, or a social
 2220 security card; and

2221 (B) An acceptable, current photo identification that
 2222 includes your name and photograph. Acceptable photo
 2223 identification includes a

2224 ~~a. identification which must include your name and~~
 2225 ~~photograph; United States passport; debit or credit card;~~

2226 military identification; ~~student identification; retirement~~
 2227 ~~center identification; neighborhood association identification;~~
 2228 public assistance identification; a veteran health
 2229 identification card issued by the United States Department of
 2230 Veterans Affairs; a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon
 2231 or firearm; or an employee identification card issued by any
 2232 branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government,
 2233 the state, a county, or a municipality. ~~;~~ ~~or~~

2234 b. If you have registered to vote without a driver license
 2235 or Florida identification card, you must also make a copy of an
 2236 identification document dated within the last 2 months which
 2237 contains the name and residence address listed on your voter
 2238 registration application. Acceptable identification ~~that~~ ~~which~~
 2239 shows your name and ~~current~~ residence address ~~includes a~~
 2240 ~~current~~ utility bill, bank statement, government check,
 2241 paycheck, or government document (excluding voter information
 2242 card).

2243 c. If you have registered to vote without a driver license
 2244 or Florida identification card and meet the requirements of Item
 2245 6., you may provide the following as proof of prior Florida
 2246 residence:

2247 (I) Documents listed in Item 5.b. that are not current
 2248 plus a current equivalent document listing your non-United
 2249 States residence address.

2250 (II) A consular report of birth abroad provided by the

2251 United States Department of State and proof that your parents
2252 previously resided in the State of Florida.

2253 d. Documents provided under this Item may be submitted
2254 using the same methods allowed under s. 101.68.

2255 6.7. The identification requirements of Item 5. ~~6.~~ do not
2256 apply if you meet one of the following requirements:

2257 ~~a. You are 65 years of age or older.~~

2258 a.b. You have a temporary or permanent physical disability
2259 as documented by a copy of a doctor's affidavit stating your
2260 disability status or a social security disability document
2261 provided to a voter registration official.

2262 b.e. You are a member of a uniformed service on active
2263 duty as documented by a current military identification provided
2264 to a voter registration official who, by reason of such active
2265 duty, will be absent from the county on election day.

2266 c.d. You are a member of the Merchant Marine as documented
2267 by a current Merchant Marine identification who, by reason of
2268 service in the Merchant Marine, will be absent from the county
2269 on election day.

2270 d.e. You are the spouse or dependent of a member referred
2271 to in paragraph b. e. or paragraph c. d. as documented by a
2272 uniformed services dependent identification who, by reason of
2273 the active duty or service of the member, will be absent from
2274 the county on election day.

2275 e.f. You are currently residing outside the United States

2276 and provide one of the following:

2277 (I) Documents listed in Item 5.b. that are not current and
2278 a current equivalent document listing your non-United States
2279 residence address.

2280 (II) A consular report of birth abroad provided by the
2281 United States Department of State and proof that your parents
2282 previously resided in the State of Florida.

2283
2284 Documents provided under this Item may be provided to election
2285 officials using mail, e-mail, or fax.

2286 ~~7.8. Place the envelope bearing the Voter's Certificate~~
2287 ~~into the mailing envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert a~~
2288 ~~copy of your identification in the identification mailing~~
2289 ~~envelope. DO NOT PUT YOUR IDENTIFICATION INSIDE THE ~~SECRECY~~~~
2290 ~~ENVELOPE WITH THE BALLOT OR INSIDE THE ENVELOPE WHICH BEARS THE~~
2291 ~~VOTER'S CERTIFICATE OR YOUR BALLOT WILL NOT COUNT.~~

2292 8. Place both the envelope bearing the Voter's Certificate
2293 and the identification envelope into the mailing envelope
2294 addressed to the supervisor.

2295 9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed mailing
2296 envelope. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed.

2297 10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to
2298 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote
2299 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote
2300 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under

2301 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

2302 **Section 20. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection**
2303 **(2) of section 102.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

2304 102.012 Inspectors, ~~and~~ clerks, and absentee vote
2305 processing workers to conduct elections.—

2306 (1) (a) The supervisor of elections of each county, at
2307 least 20 days before ~~prior to~~ the holding of any election, shall
2308 appoint an election board comprised of poll workers who serve as
2309 clerks or inspectors for each precinct in the county and shall
2310 recruit absentee vote processing workers. The clerk shall be in
2311 charge of, and responsible for, seeing that the election board
2312 carries out its duties and responsibilities. Each inspector,
2313 absentee vote processing worker, and ~~each~~ clerk shall take and
2314 subscribe to an oath or affirmation, which shall be written or
2315 printed, to the effect that he or she will perform the duties of
2316 inspector, absentee vote processing worker, or clerk of
2317 election, respectively, according to law and will endeavor to
2318 prevent all fraud, deceit, or abuse in conducting the election.
2319 The oath may be taken before an officer authorized to administer
2320 oaths or before any of the persons who are to act as inspectors,
2321 one of them to swear the others, and one of the others sworn
2322 thus, in turn, to administer the oath to the one who has not
2323 been sworn. The oaths shall be returned with the poll list and
2324 the returns of the election to the supervisor. In all questions
2325 that may arise before the members of an election board, the

2326 decision of a majority of them shall decide the question. The
 2327 supervisor of elections of each county shall be responsible for
 2328 the attendance and diligent performance of his or her duties by
 2329 each clerk, absentee vote processing worker, and inspector.

2330 (2) Each member of the election board and each absentee
 2331 vote processing worker must ~~shall~~ be able to read and write the
 2332 English language and ~~shall~~ be a registered qualified elector of
 2333 the county in which the member is appointed or a person who has
 2334 preregistered to vote, pursuant to s. 97.041(1)(b), in the
 2335 county in which the member is appointed. An ~~no~~ election board or
 2336 a work area of an absentee vote counting location may not ~~shall~~
 2337 be composed solely of members of one political party, except
 2338 that; however, in any primary in which only one party has
 2339 candidates appearing on the ballot, all clerks and inspectors
 2340 may be of that party. Any person whose name appears as an
 2341 opposed candidate for any office shall not be eligible to serve
 2342 on an election board.

2343 **Section 21. Section 102.014, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 2344 **to read:**

2345 102.014 Poll worker recruitment and training.—

2346 (1) The supervisor of elections shall conduct training for
 2347 inspectors, clerks, absentee vote processing workers, and deputy
 2348 sheriffs before ~~prior to~~ each primary, general, and special
 2349 election for the purpose of instructing such persons in their
 2350 duties and responsibilities as election officials. The Division

2351 of Elections shall develop a statewide uniform training
2352 curriculum for poll workers, and each supervisor shall use such
2353 curriculum in training poll workers. The Department of State
2354 shall develop a statewide uniform training curriculum for
2355 absentee vote processing workers, and each supervisor shall use
2356 such curriculum in training absentee vote processing workers. A
2357 certificate may be issued by the supervisor of elections to each
2358 person completing such training. A ~~No~~ person may not ~~shall~~ serve
2359 as an inspector, clerk, absentee vote processing worker, or
2360 deputy sheriff for an election unless such person has completed
2361 the training as required. A clerk may not work at the polls
2362 unless he or she demonstrates a working knowledge of the laws
2363 and procedures relating to voter registration, voting system
2364 operation, balloting and polling place procedures, and problem-
2365 solving and conflict-resolution skills. An absentee vote
2366 processing worker may not work at the absentee vote processing
2367 center unless he or she demonstrates a working knowledge of the
2368 laws and procedures relating to chain of custody, the work areas
2369 to which he or she may be assigned, physical security
2370 requirements, and problem-solving and conflict-resolution
2371 skills.

2372 (2) A person who has attended previous training conducted
2373 within 2 years before the election may be appointed by the
2374 supervisor to fill a vacancy on an election board or at an
2375 absentee vote processing center. If no person with prior

2376 training is available to fill such vacancy, the supervisor of
2377 elections may fill such vacancy in accordance with ~~the~~
2378 ~~provisions of~~ subsection (3) from among persons who have not
2379 received the training required by this section.

2380 (3) In the case of absence or refusal to act on the part
2381 of any absentee vote processing worker, inspector, or clerk, the
2382 supervisor shall appoint a replacement who meets the
2383 qualifications prescribed in s. 102.012(2). The absentee vote
2384 processing worker, inspector, or clerk so appointed shall be a
2385 member of the same political party as the absentee vote
2386 processing worker, clerk, or inspector whom he or she replaces.

2387 (4) Each supervisor of elections shall be responsible for
2388 training absentee vote processing workers, inspectors, and
2389 clerks, subject to the following minimum requirements:

2390 (a) ~~A~~ ~~No~~ clerk may not ~~shall be entitled to~~ work at the
2391 polls unless he or she has had a minimum of 3 hours of training
2392 before ~~prior to~~ each election.

2393 (b) ~~An~~ ~~No~~ inspector may not ~~shall~~ work at the polls unless
2394 he or she has had a minimum of 2 hours of training before ~~prior~~
2395 ~~to~~ each election.

2396 (c) An absentee vote processing worker may not work in a
2397 work area unless he or she has had a minimum of 2 hours of
2398 training before each election, including training for the work
2399 area to which he or she is assigned.

2400 (5) The Department of State shall create a uniform polling

2401 place procedures manual and an absentee vote processing center
 2402 procedures manual and adopt the manuals ~~manual~~ by rule. Each
 2403 supervisor of elections shall ensure that the appropriate manual
 2404 is available in hard copy or electronic form in every polling
 2405 place and absentee vote processing center. The manuals ~~manual~~
 2406 shall guide absentee vote processing workers, inspectors,
 2407 clerks, and deputy sheriffs in the proper implementation of
 2408 election procedures and laws. The manuals ~~manual~~ shall be
 2409 indexed by subject, and written in plain, clear, unambiguous
 2410 language. The manuals ~~manual~~ shall provide specific examples of
 2411 common problems encountered at the polls and detail specific
 2412 procedures for resolving those problems.

2413 (a) The polling place procedures manual shall include,
 2414 without limitation:

2415 1. ~~(a)~~ Regulations governing solicitation by individuals
 2416 and groups at the polling place. ~~†~~

2417 2. ~~(b)~~ Procedures to be followed with respect to voters
 2418 whose names are not on the precinct register. ~~†~~

2419 3. ~~(c)~~ Proper operation of the voting system. ~~†~~

2420 4. ~~(d)~~ Ballot handling procedures. ~~†~~

2421 5. ~~(e)~~ Procedures governing spoiled ballots;

2422 6. ~~(f)~~ Procedures to be followed after the polls close. ~~†~~

2423 7. ~~(g)~~ Rights of voters at the polls. ~~†~~

2424 8. ~~(h)~~ Procedures for handling emergency situations. ~~†~~

2425 9. ~~(i)~~ Procedures for dealing with irate voters. ~~†~~

2426 10.~~(j)~~ The handling and processing of provisional
 2427 ballots.~~;~~ and
 2428 11.~~(k)~~ Security procedures.
 2429 12. Chain of custody procedures.
 2430 13. Communications device policy.
 2431 14. Rights and responsibilities of poll watchers at the
 2432 polls.
 2433 (b) The absentee vote processing center manual shall
 2434 include, but not be limited to:
 2435 1. Regulations governing use of cellular telephones and
 2436 wireless networking at the absentee vote counting location.
 2437 2. Proper communication settings and operation of vote
 2438 counting location technologies.
 2439 3. Procedures for management and use of portable storage
 2440 media.
 2441 4. Procedures for chain of custody between work areas and
 2442 storage.
 2443 5. Procedures for the curing of ballots.
 2444 6. Access to and control of ballots in storage or within
 2445 work areas during working and nonworking hours.
 2446 7. Rights and responsibilities of public watchers at the
 2447 absentee vote processing center.
 2448 8. Security procedures, including building security,
 2449 physical port security, and system cybersecurity.
 2450 9. Beginning-of-shift procedures.

- 2451 | 10. End-of-shift procedures.
- 2452 | 11. Rights and responsibilities of public watchers at the
- 2453 | absentee vote processing center.
- 2454 | 12. Ballot accounting and reconciliation reports.
- 2455 |

2456 | The Department of State shall revise the manuals ~~manual~~ as
 2457 | necessary to address new procedures in law or problems
 2458 | encountered by voters and poll workers at the precincts and by
 2459 | absentee vote processing workers at absentee vote counting
 2460 | locations.

2461 | (6) Supervisors of elections shall work with the business
 2462 | and local community to develop public-private programs to ensure
 2463 | the recruitment of skilled absentee vote processing workers,
 2464 | inspectors, and clerks.

2465 | (7) The Department of State shall develop a mandatory,
 2466 | statewide, and uniform program for training poll workers on
 2467 | issues of etiquette and sensitivity with respect to voters
 2468 | having a disability. The program must be conducted locally by
 2469 | each supervisor of elections, and each poll worker must complete
 2470 | the program before working during the current election cycle.
 2471 | The supervisor of elections shall contract with a recognized
 2472 | disability-related organization, such as a center for
 2473 | independent living, family network on disabilities, deaf service
 2474 | bureau, or other such organization, to develop and assist with
 2475 | training the trainers in the disability sensitivity programs.

2476 The program must include actual demonstrations of obstacles
2477 confronted by disabled persons during the voting process,
2478 including obtaining access to the polling place, traveling
2479 through the polling area, and using the voting system.

2480 **Section 22. Subsections (3) through (11) of section**
2481 **102.141, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)**
2482 **through (13), respectively, new subsections (3) and (4) are**
2483 **added to that section, and subsection (1), paragraph (a) of**
2484 **subsection (2), and present subsection (7) of that section are**
2485 **amended, to read:**

2486 102.141 County canvassing board; duties.—

2487 (1) The county canvassing board shall be composed of the
2488 supervisor of elections; a county court judge, who shall act as
2489 chair; ~~and~~ the chair of the board of county commissioners; and
2490 two elected municipal officials. The elected municipal officials
2491 assigned to the canvassing board shall rotate amongst the
2492 municipalities within the county so that the elected municipal
2493 official is different every election cycle. The canvassing board
2494 must have at least two members from each major political party.
2495 The names of the canvassing board members must be published on
2496 the supervisor's website upon completion of the logic and
2497 accuracy test. At least two alternate canvassing board members
2498 must be appointed pursuant to paragraph (e). In the event any
2499 member of the county canvassing board is unable to serve, is a
2500 candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed, or

2501 is an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any
2502 candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed,
2503 such member shall be replaced as follows:

2504 (a) If a county court judge is unable to serve or if all
2505 are disqualified, the chief judge of the judicial circuit in
2506 which the county is located must appoint as a substitute member
2507 a qualified elector of the county who is not a candidate with
2508 opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an
2509 active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate
2510 with opposition in the election being canvassed. In such event,
2511 the members of the county canvassing board shall meet and elect
2512 a chair.

2513 (b) If the supervisor of elections is unable to serve or
2514 is disqualified, the chair of the board of county commissioners
2515 must appoint as a substitute member a member of the board of
2516 county commissioners or a municipal official who is not a
2517 candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and
2518 who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of
2519 any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed.
2520 The supervisor, however, shall act in an advisory capacity to
2521 the canvassing board.

2522 (c) If the chair of the board of county commissioners is
2523 unable to serve or is disqualified, the board of county
2524 commissioners must appoint as a substitute member one of its
2525 members who is not a candidate with opposition in the election

2526 | being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the
 2527 | campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the
 2528 | election being canvassed.

2529 | (d) If a substitute member or alternate member cannot be
 2530 | appointed as provided elsewhere in this subsection, or in the
 2531 | event of a vacancy in such office, the chief judge of the
 2532 | judicial circuit in which the county is located must appoint as
 2533 | a substitute member or alternate member a qualified elector of
 2534 | the county who is not a candidate with opposition in the
 2535 | election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in
 2536 | the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in
 2537 | the election being canvassed.

2538 | (e)1. The chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the
 2539 | county is located shall appoint a county court judge as an
 2540 | alternate member of the county canvassing board or, if each
 2541 | county court judge is unable to serve or is disqualified, shall
 2542 | appoint an alternate member who is qualified to serve as a
 2543 | substitute member under paragraph (a). Any alternate may serve
 2544 | in any seat.

2545 | 2. The chair of the board of county commissioners shall
 2546 | appoint a member of the board of county commissioners as an
 2547 | alternate member of the county canvassing board or, if each
 2548 | member of the board of county commissioners is unable to serve
 2549 | or is disqualified, shall appoint an alternate member who is
 2550 | qualified to serve as a substitute member under paragraph (d).

2551 3. A quorum of at least three members of the county
2552 canvassing board is required for all signature and provisional
2553 ballot review proceedings. If a quorum cannot be established a
2554 ~~member of the county canvassing board is unable to participate~~
2555 ~~in a meeting of the board,~~ the chair of the county canvassing
2556 board or his or her designee must designate which alternate
2557 member will serve as a member of the board in the place of the
2558 member who is unable to participate at that meeting.

2559 4. If not serving as one of the three members of the
2560 county canvassing board, an alternate member may be present,
2561 observe, and communicate with the three members constituting the
2562 county canvassing board, but may not vote in the board's
2563 decisions or determinations.

2564 (2) (a) The county canvassing board shall meet in a
2565 building accessible to the public in the county where the
2566 election occurred at a time and place to be designated by the
2567 supervisor to publicly canvass the absent electors' ballots as
2568 provided for in s. 101.68 and provisional ballots as provided by
2569 ss. 101.048, 101.049, and 101.6925. During each meeting of the
2570 county canvassing board, each political party and each candidate
2571 may have one watcher able to view directly or on a display
2572 screen ballots being examined for signature matching and other
2573 processes. Each county canvassing board meeting must be
2574 monitored by real-time video available for public viewing, and
2575 meeting minutes for each meeting must be published on the

2576 supervisor's website. Provisional ballots cast pursuant to s.
2577 101.049 shall be canvassed in a manner that votes for candidates
2578 and issues on those ballots can be segregated from other votes.
2579 As soon as the absent electors' ballots and the provisional
2580 ballots are canvassed, the board shall proceed to publicly
2581 canvass the vote given each candidate, nominee, constitutional
2582 amendment, or other measure submitted to the electorate of the
2583 county, as shown by the returns then on file in the office of
2584 the supervisor.

2585 (3) (a) Each day during an election, the county canvassing
2586 board shall review all of the following reports:

2587 1. Exception reports on ballot chain of custody
2588 documentation, including missing quantities, seals, and
2589 excessive transport times.

2590 2. Daily precinct and vote-by-mail ballot reconciliation
2591 reports.

2592 3. Daily manual cross-check reports in accordance with s.
2593 101.015 (7).

2594 4. Portable data storage device chain of custody reports.

2595 5. Physical building and ballot storage area exception
2596 reports.

2597 6. Observer, voter, and election worker reports on
2598 irregularities and written objections to the counting of ballots
2599 with chain of custody deficiencies.

2600 (b) Candidates and political parties may view vote-by-mail

2601 chain of custody forms and file written objections before the
2602 processing of any such ballots.

2603 (c) Upon completing the review required under paragraph
2604 (a), the county canvassing board shall take corrective actions
2605 as necessary, including deciding the disposition of any ballots
2606 under paragraph (b), and report to the department any issue that
2607 cannot be resolved.

2608 (4) (a) Before certifying an election, the county
2609 canvassing board shall review all of the following:

2610 1. The vote-by-mail reconciliation reports outlined in s
2611 101.015 (4) (c) .

2612 2. The ballot, envelope, and seal accounting report
2613 required under s. 101.21(2) .

2614 3. Ballot chain of custody reports from precincts,
2615 including reports on the transport of vote-by-mail ballots to
2616 permanent storage.

2617 (b) Any discrepancies identified in the review must be
2618 reported to the department. If a discrepancy involves a number
2619 of ballots that exceeds the margin of victory in any local race,
2620 the race may not be certified unless the discrepancy is
2621 resolved. If the discrepancy is not resolved, the race must be
2622 deemed invalid and a special election must be held to fill the
2623 office in accordance with chapter 100. If the discrepancy is
2624 determined to be due to chain of custody mismanagement, the
2625 supervisor may be removed from office.

2626 (9)~~(7)~~ If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate
 2627 for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a
 2628 percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a
 2629 candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not
 2630 retained by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on
 2631 the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the
 2632 ballot was approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less
 2633 of the votes cast on such measure, a manual recount using
 2634 original paper ballots and voter certificate envelopes shall be
 2635 ordered of the votes cast with respect to such office or
 2636 measure. The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering
 2637 recounts in federal, state, and multicounty races. The county
 2638 canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying
 2639 the election is responsible for ordering recounts in all other
 2640 races. A recount need not be ordered with respect to the returns
 2641 for any office, however, if the candidate or candidates defeated
 2642 or eliminated from contention for such office by one-half of a
 2643 percent or less of the votes cast for such office request in
 2644 writing that a recount not be made.

2645 (a) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a
 2646 recount shall oversee a manual recount using original hand-
 2647 marked paper ballots and voter certificate envelopes and
 2648 determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast.
 2649 The recount must include undervotes, overvotes, and blank
 2650 ballots ~~put each marksense ballot through automatic tabulating~~

2651 ~~equipment and determine whether the returns correctly reflect~~
2652 ~~the votes cast. If any marksense ballot is physically damaged so~~
2653 ~~that it cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating~~
2654 ~~equipment during the recount, a true duplicate shall be made of~~
2655 ~~the damaged ballot pursuant to the procedures in s. 101.5614(4).~~
2656 ~~Immediately before the start of the recount, a test of the~~
2657 ~~tabulating equipment shall be conducted as provided in s.~~
2658 ~~101.5612. If the test indicates no error, the recount tabulation~~
2659 ~~of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes~~
2660 ~~shall be canvassed accordingly. If an error is detected, the~~
2661 ~~cause therefor shall be ascertained and corrected and the~~
2662 ~~recount repeated, as necessary. The canvassing board shall~~
2663 ~~immediately report the error, along with the cause of the error~~
2664 ~~and the corrective measures being taken, to the Department of~~
2665 ~~State. No later than 11 days after the election, the canvassing~~
2666 ~~board shall file a separate incident report with the Department~~
2667 ~~of State, detailing the resolution of the matter and identifying~~
2668 ~~any measures that will avoid a future recurrence of the error.~~
2669 ~~If the automatic tabulating equipment used in a recount is not~~
2670 ~~part of the voting system and the ballots have already been~~
2671 ~~processed through such equipment, the canvassing board is not~~
2672 ~~required to put each ballot through any automatic tabulating~~
2673 ~~equipment again.~~

2674 (b) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a
2675 recount where touchscreen ballots were used shall manually

2676 recount the paper output from each device ~~examine the counters~~
2677 ~~on the precinct tabulators to ensure that the total of the~~
2678 ~~returns on the precinct tabulators equals the overall election~~
2679 ~~return. If there is a discrepancy between the overall election~~
2680 ~~return and the counters of the precinct tabulators, the counters~~
2681 ~~of the precinct tabulators shall be presumed correct and such~~
2682 ~~votes shall be canvassed accordingly.~~

2683 (c) The canvassing board shall submit on forms or in
2684 formats provided by the division a second set of unofficial
2685 returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide,
2686 state, or multicounty office or ballot measure. The returns
2687 shall be filed no later than 3 p.m. on the 5th day after any
2688 primary election and no later than 3 p.m. on the 9th day after
2689 any general election in which a recount was ordered by the
2690 Secretary of State. If the canvassing board is unable to
2691 complete the recount prescribed in this subsection by the
2692 deadline, the second set of unofficial returns submitted by the
2693 canvassing board shall be identical to the initial unofficial
2694 returns and the submission shall also include a detailed
2695 explanation of why it was unable to timely complete the recount.
2696 However, the canvassing board shall complete the recount
2697 prescribed in this subsection, along with any manual recount
2698 prescribed in s. 102.166, and certify election returns in
2699 accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

2700 (d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules

2701 prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified
2702 voting system, which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.

2703 **Section 23. Subsections (1) and (2) through (6) of section**
2704 **102.166, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (2)**
2705 **and (6) through (10), respectively, new subsections (1), (3),**
2706 **(4), and (5) are added to that section, and present subsections**
2707 **(1) and (5) of that section are amended, to read:**

2708 102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.—

2709 (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2710 contrary, if the first set of unofficial returns pursuant to s.
2711 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated
2712 or eliminated by 2 percent or less of the votes cast for such
2713 office, or if a candidate for retention to a judicial office was
2714 retained or not retained by 3 percent or less of the votes cast
2715 on the question of retention, the candidate may request a full
2716 manual recount of the original hand-marked paper ballots cast in
2717 the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office in view of the
2718 public. Voting equipment, including tabulators, may not be used
2719 to sort or count ballots in the manual recount process. Ballot
2720 images may not be used as a substitute for the original hand-
2721 marked paper ballots. Only original hand-marked ballots and
2722 paper output from voter interface devices may be used in the
2723 manual recount process. Candidates and candidates' designees
2724 must immediately be provided all requested reports, chain of
2725 custody forms, data, and log files and any other requested

2726 information from any system used during the election, including
 2727 voting systems and other election systems.

2728 (2)-(1) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to
 2729 s. 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was
 2730 defeated or eliminated by 1 ~~one-quarter of a~~ percent or less of
 2731 the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention
 2732 to a judicial office was retained or not retained by 1 ~~one-~~
 2733 ~~quarter of a~~ percent or less of the votes cast on the question
 2734 of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was
 2735 approved or rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the
 2736 votes cast on such measure, a manual recount of the overvotes
 2737 and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of
 2738 such office or ballot measure shall be ordered and conducted
 2739 using original hand-marked ballots and paper output from voter
 2740 interface devices in view of the public, unless:

2741 (a) The candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated
 2742 from contention by ~~one-quarter of 1~~ percent or less ~~fewer~~ of the
 2743 votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not
 2744 be made; or

2745 (b) The number of overvotes and undervotes is fewer than
 2746 the number of votes needed to change the outcome of the
 2747 election.

2748
 2749 The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering a manual
 2750 recount for federal, state, and multicounty races. The county

2751 canvassing board or local board responsible for certifying the
2752 election is responsible for ordering a manual recount for all
2753 other races. A manual recount consists of a recount of marksense
2754 ballots or of digital images of those ballots by a person.

2755 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2756 contrary, if a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or
2757 rejected by 2 percent or less of the votes cast on such measure,
2758 the Secretary of State or a county canvassing board or local
2759 board responsible for certifying the election in a county that
2760 is in the geographic jurisdiction of such measure may request a
2761 full manual recount of the original hand-marked paper ballots
2762 cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such ballot
2763 measure in view of the public. Voting equipment, including
2764 tabulators, may not be used to sort or count ballots in the
2765 manual recount process. Ballot images may not be used as a
2766 substitute for the original hand-marked paper ballots. Only
2767 original hand-marked paper ballots may be used in the manual
2768 recount process. The Secretary of State or the county canvassing
2769 board or local board must immediately be provided all requested
2770 reports, chain of custody forms, data, and log files and any
2771 other requested information from any equipment used during the
2772 election, including voting systems and other election systems.

2773 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2774 contrary, upon delivery of a petition signed by at least 5
2775 percent of county voters, a comprehensive audit must be

2776 conducted and include all paper ballots, vote-by-mail voter
2777 certificate envelopes, digital ballots, digital signatures in
2778 voter roll file alongside the corresponding digital signatures
2779 of vote-by-mail voter certificate envelopes, voter rolls, and
2780 other equipment used in the given precinct election being
2781 audited. The auditors for such audit must be chosen by the
2782 petitioning voters, and the audit must be completed in view of
2783 the public.

2784 (a) If the electors' petition concerns a single race, a
2785 manual audit must consist of a public manual tally of the votes
2786 cast in that race appearing on the ballot. The tally sheet must
2787 include election day, vote-by-mail, early voting, provisional,
2788 and overseas paper ballots. In addition, the audit must include
2789 data collection and signature comparison, whether in paper or
2790 electronic form, of all vote-by-mail voter certificate
2791 envelopes; paper ballots; signatures, including all signatures
2792 in voter registration files; voter roll files; and other
2793 equipment used in the voting district being audited.

2794 (b) If the electors' petition concerns the votes cast
2795 across every race that appears on the ballot, a manual audit of
2796 the votes cast across every race appearing on the ballot must be
2797 conducted. The tally sheet must include election day, vote-by-
2798 mail, early voting, provisional, and overseas paper ballots. In
2799 addition, the audit must include data collection and signature
2800 comparison, whether in paper or electronic form, of all vote-by-

2801 mail voter certificate envelopes; ballots; signatures, including
2802 all signatures in voter registration files; voter roll files;
2803 and other equipment used in the voting district being audited.

2804 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2805 contrary, if there is a discrepancy of more than the margin of
2806 victory in any race on the ballot reconciliation report, a
2807 manual audit of original ballots, voter certificate envelopes,
2808 and chain of custody forms must be completed for that race,
2809 including all paper ballots, vote-by-mail voter certificate
2810 envelopes, digital ballots, digital signatures in voter roll
2811 files alongside the corresponding digital signatures of the
2812 vote-by-mail voter certificate envelopes, voter rolls, and other
2813 equipment used in the given precinct election being audited. The
2814 auditors for such audit must be chosen by the Division of
2815 Elections, and the audit must be completed in view of the
2816 public.

2817 (9)~~(5)~~ Procedures for a manual recount are as follows:

2818 (a) The county canvassing board shall appoint as many
2819 counting teams of at least two electors as is necessary to
2820 manually recount the ballots. A counting team must have, when
2821 possible, members of at least two political parties. A candidate
2822 involved in the race shall not be a member of the counting team.

2823 (b) Each duplicate ballot prepared pursuant to s.
2824 101.5614(4) or s. 102.141(9) ~~s. 102.141(7)~~ shall be compared
2825 with the original ballot to ensure the correctness of the

2826 duplicate.

2827 (c) If a counting team is unable to determine whether the
 2828 ballot contains a clear indication that the voter has made a
 2829 definite choice, the ballot shall be presented to the county
 2830 canvassing board for a determination.

2831 (d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules
 2832 prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified
 2833 voting system which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.
 2834 The rules shall address, at a minimum, the following areas:

- 2835 1. Security of ballots during the recount process;
- 2836 2. Time and place of recounts;
- 2837 3. Public observance of recounts;
- 2838 4. Objections to ballot determinations;
- 2839 5. Record of recount proceedings;
- 2840 6. Procedures relating to candidate and petitioner
 2841 representatives; and
- 2842 7. Procedures relating to the certification and the use of
 2843 automatic tabulating equipment that is not part of a voting
 2844 system.

2845 **Section 24. Section 104.21, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 2846 **to read:**

2847 104.21 Changing electors' ballots or voter certificate
 2848 envelopes.—

2849 (1) Whoever fraudulently changes or attempts to change the
 2850 vote or ballot of any elector, by which actions such elector is

2851 prevented from voting such ballot or from voting such ballot as
 2852 the elector intended, is guilty of a felony of the third degree,
 2853 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2854 (2) An election worker who changes any information or
 2855 marking on a voter certificate envelope in an attempt to cure an
 2856 envelope deficiency commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,
 2857 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

2858 **Section 25. Section 104.291, Florida Statutes, is created**
 2859 **to read:**

2860 104.291 False representation of poll watcher
 2861 identification.—A poll watcher who wears a poll watcher
 2862 identification badge that belongs to another person commits a
 2863 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
 2864 775.082 or s. 775.083.

2865 **Section 26. Section 104.30, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 2866 **to read:**

2867 104.30 Voting system; unlawful possession; tampering.—

2868 (1) Any unauthorized person who unlawfully has possession
 2869 of any voting system, components, or key thereof commits ~~is~~
 2870 ~~guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
 2871 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

2872 (2) Any person who tampers or attempts to tamper with or
 2873 destroy any voting system or equipment with the intention of
 2874 interfering with the election process or the results thereof
 2875 commits ~~is guilty of~~ a felony of the third degree, punishable as

2876 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2877 (3) Any person who without lawful authorization prints a
2878 ballot or voter certificate envelope that appears to be a valid
2879 ballot or voter certificate envelope in this state commits a
2880 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.
2881 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2882 **Section 27.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.