

	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Senate		House
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The Committee on Rules (Brandes) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2021, present subsections (5) through (46) of section 97.021, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) through (47), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

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

(5) "Automatic tabulating equipment" means an apparatus

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that automatically examines, counts, and records votes.

Section 2. Effective upon becoming a law, paragraph (t) of subsection (2) of section 97.052, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 97.052 Uniform statewide voter registration application.-
- (2) The uniform statewide voter registration application must be designed to elicit the following information from the applicant:
- (t) 1. Whether the applicant has never been convicted of a felony, and if convicted, has had his or her voting rights restored by including the statement "I affirm I have never been convicted of a felony or, if I have been, my rights relating to voting have been restored." and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.
- 2. Whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony, and if convicted, has had his or her civil rights restored through executive elemency, by including the statement "If I have been convicted of a felony, I affirm my voting rights have been restored by the Board of Executive Clemency." and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.
- 3. Whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony and, if convicted, has had his or her voting rights restored pursuant s. 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution, by including the statement "If I have been convicted of a felony, I affirm my voting rights have been restored pursuant to s. 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution upon the completion of all terms of my sentence, including parole or probation." and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.

Section 3. Effective upon becoming a law, paragraph (a) of

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subsection (5) of section 97.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.-

- (5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if it contains the following information necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041, including:
 - 1. The applicant's name.
- 2. The applicant's address of legal residence, including a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier, if appropriate. Failure to include a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room or other identifier on a voter registration application does not impact a voter's eligibility to register to vote or cast a ballot, and such an omission may not serve as the basis for a challenge to a voter's eligibility or reason to not count a ballot.
 - 3. The applicant's date of birth.
- 4. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant is a citizen of the United States.
- 5.a. The applicant's current and valid Florida driver license number or the identification number from a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or
- b. If the applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license or a Florida identification card, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

In case an applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license, Florida identification card, or social security number, the applicant shall affirm this fact in the

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manner prescribed in the uniform statewide voter registration application.

- 6. A mark in the applicable checkbox affirming that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has had his or her civil rights restored through executive clemency, or has had his or her voting rights restored pursuant to s. 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution.
- 7. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored.
- 8. The original signature or a digital signature transmitted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of the applicant swearing or affirming under the penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the information contained in the registration application is true and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051.

Section 4. Effective upon becoming a law, paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) of subsection (1) of section 97.0585, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 97.0585 Public records exemption; information regarding voters and voter registration; confidentiality.-
- (1) The following information held by an agency, as defined in s. 119.011, and obtained for the purpose of voter registration is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and may be used only for purposes of voter registration:
 - (d) Information related to a voter registration applicant's



or voter's prior felony conviction and whether such person has had his or her voting rights restored by the Board of Executive Clemency or pursuant to s. 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution.

(e) All information concerning preregistered voter registration applicants who are 16 or 17 years of age.

(e) (f) Paragraph (d) is Paragraphs (d) and (e) are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2024, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 101.043, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.043 Identification required at polls.-

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(b) If the picture identification does not contain the signature of the elector, an additional identification that provides the elector's signature shall be required. The address appearing on the identification presented by the elector may not be used as the basis to confirm an elector's legal residence or otherwise challenge an elector's legal residence. The elector shall sign his or her name in the space provided on the precinct register or on an electronic device provided for recording the elector's signature. The clerk or inspector shall compare the signature with that on the identification provided by the elector and enter his or her initials in the space provided on the precinct register or on an electronic device provided for that purpose and allow the elector to vote if the clerk or inspector is satisfied as to the identity of the elector.

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 101.051, Florida



Statutes, is amended to read:

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101.051 Electors seeking assistance in casting ballots; oath to be executed; forms to be furnished.-

(2) It is unlawful for any person to be in the voting booth with any elector except as provided in subsection (1). A person at a polling place or early voting site, or within 150 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place or early voting site, may not solicit any elector in an effort to provide assistance to vote pursuant to subsection (1). Any person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 101.131, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.131 Watchers at polls.-

(1) Each political party and each candidate may have one watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election. A political committee formed for the specific purpose of expressly advocating the passage or defeat of an issue on the ballot may have one watcher for each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election. A No watcher may not shall be permitted to come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to properly perform his or her functions, but is each shall be allowed within the polling room or early voting area to watch and observe the conduct of electors and officials. The poll watchers shall furnish their own materials and necessities and may shall not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. The poll watchers shall pose any questions regarding polling place procedures directly to the clerk for resolution. They may

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not interact with voters. Each poll watcher must shall be a qualified and registered elector of this state the county in which he or she serves.

Section 8. Effective upon becoming a law, subsection (2) of section 101.5612, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.5612 Testing of tabulating equipment.

(2) On any day not more than 25 10 days before prior to the commencement of early voting as provided in s. 101.657, the supervisor of elections shall have the automatic tabulating equipment publicly tested to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures. If the ballots to be used at the polling place on election day are not available at the time of the testing, the supervisor may conduct an additional test not more than 10 days before election day. Public notice of the time and place of the test shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by publication on the supervisor of elections' website and once in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, by posting the notice in at least four conspicuous places in the county. The supervisor or the municipal elections official may, at the time of qualifying, give written notice of the time and location of the public preelection test to each candidate qualifying with that office and obtain a signed receipt that the notice has been given. The Department of State shall give written notice to each statewide candidate at the time of qualifying, or immediately at the end of qualifying, that the voting equipment will be tested and advise each candidate to contact the county supervisor of elections as to the time and

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location of the public preelection test. The supervisor or the municipal elections official shall, at least 30 15 days before prior to the commencement of early voting as provided in s. 101.657, send written notice by certified mail to the county party chair of each political party and to all candidates for other than statewide office whose names appear on the ballot in the county and who did not receive written notification from the supervisor or municipal elections official at the time of qualifying, stating the time and location of the public preelection test of the automatic tabulating equipment. The canvassing board shall convene, and each member of the canvassing board shall certify to the accuracy of the test. For the test, the canvassing board may designate one member to represent it. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, the press, and the public. Each political party may designate one person with expertise in the computer field who shall be allowed in the central counting room when all tests are being conducted and when the official votes are being counted. The designee shall not interfere with the normal operation of the canvassing board.

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 101.5614, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.5614 Canvass of returns.-

(4)(a) If any vote-by-mail ballot is physically damaged so that it cannot properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be made of the damaged ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the damaged ballot. Likewise, A duplicate ballot must also shall be made of a vote-by-mail ballot containing an overvoted race or a

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marked vote-by-mail ballot in which every race is undervoted, including which shall include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing board based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s. 102.166(4). Upon request, a physically present candidate, a political party official, a political committee official, or an authorized designee thereof, must be allowed to observe the duplication of ballots. All duplicate ballots shall be clearly labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective ballot. After a ballot has been duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in an envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate ballot shall be tallied with the other ballots for that precinct.

Section 10. Effective January 1, 2021, paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsections (6) and (7) of section 101.5614, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, are amended to read:

101.5614 Canvass of returns.-

(4)(a) If any vote-by-mail ballot is physically damaged so that it cannot properly be counted by the voting system's automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be made of the damaged ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the damaged ballot. A duplicate ballot must also be made of a marked vote-by-mail ballot in which every race is undervoted, including all valid votes as determined by the canvassing board based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s. 102.166(4). Upon request, a physically present candidate, a political party official, a political committee official, or an authorized designee thereof, must be allowed to observe the duplication of ballots. All duplicate ballots shall be clearly

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labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective ballot. After a ballot has been duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in an envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate ballot shall be tallied with the other ballots for that precinct.

- (6) Vote-by-mail ballots may be counted by the voting system's automatic tabulating equipment if they have been marked in a manner which will enable them to be properly counted by such equipment.
- (7) The return printed by the voting system's automatic tabulating equipment, to which has been added the return of write-in, vote-by-mail, and manually counted votes and votes from provisional ballots, shall constitute the official return of the election upon certification by the canvassing board. Upon completion of the count, the returns shall be open to the public. A copy of the returns may be posted at the central counting place or at the office of the supervisor of elections in lieu of the posting of returns at individual precincts.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 101.6103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 101.6103 Mail ballot election procedure.-
- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the supervisor of elections shall mail all official ballots with a secrecy envelope, a return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to describe the voting process to each elector entitled to vote in the election not sooner than the 40th 20th day before the election and not later than the 10th day before the date of the election. All such ballots shall be mailed by



first-class mail. Ballots shall be addressed to each elector at the address appearing in the registration records and placed in an envelope which is prominently marked "Do Not Forward."

Section 12. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section 102.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.031 Maintenance of good order at polls; authorities; persons allowed in polling rooms and early voting areas; unlawful solicitation of voters.-

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(e) The owner, operator, or lessee of the property on which a polling place or an early voting site is located, or an agent or employee thereof, may not prohibit the solicitation of voters by any candidate or a candidate's designee outside of the nosolicitation zone during polling hours.

Section 13. Effective January 1, 2021, paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 102.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.141 County canvassing board; duties.-

(7) If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, a recount shall be ordered of the votes cast with respect to such office or measure. The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering recounts in federal, state, and multicounty races. The county canvassing board or the local

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board responsible for certifying the election is responsible for ordering recounts in all other races. A recount need not be ordered with respect to the returns for any office, however, if the candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated from contention for such office by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not be made.

(a) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount shall put each marksense ballot through automatic tabulating equipment and determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast. If any marksense ballot is physically damaged so that it cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating equipment during the recount, a true duplicate shall be made of the damaged ballot pursuant to the procedures in s. 101.5614(4). Immediately before the start of the recount, a test of the tabulating equipment shall be conducted as provided in s. 101.5612. If the test indicates no error, the recount tabulation of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly. If an error is detected, the cause therefor shall be ascertained and corrected and the recount repeated, as necessary. The canvassing board shall immediately report the error, along with the cause of the error and the corrective measures being taken, to the Department of State. No later than 11 days after the election, the canvassing board shall file a separate incident report with the Department of State, detailing the resolution of the matter and identifying any measures that will avoid a future recurrence of the error. If the automatic tabulating equipment used in a recount is not part of the voting system and the ballots have already been

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processed through such equipment, the canvassing board is not required to put each ballot through any automatic tabulating equipment again.

Section 14. Effective January 1, 2021, subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section 102.166, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.-

- (1) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to s. 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, a manual recount of the overvotes and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office or ballot measure shall be ordered unless:
- (a) The candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated from contention by one-quarter of 1 percent or fewer of the votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not be made; or
- (b) The number of overvotes and undervotes is fewer than the number of votes needed to change the outcome of the election.

356 357 The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering a manual

recount for federal, state, and multicounty races. The county canvassing board or local board responsible for certifying the

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election is responsible for ordering a manual recount for all other races. A manual recount consists of a recount of marksense ballots or of digital images of those ballots by a person.

- (2) Any hardware or software used to identify and sort overvotes and undervotes for a given race or ballot measure must be certified by the Department of State as part of the voting system pursuant to s. 101.015. Any such hardware or software must be capable of simultaneously identifying and sorting overvotes and undervotes in multiple races while simultaneously counting votes. Overvotes and undervotes must be identified and sorted while recounting ballots pursuant to s. 102.141. Overvotes and undervotes may be identified and sorted physically or digitally.
 - (5) Procedures for a manual recount are as follows:
- (a) The county canvassing board shall appoint as many counting teams of at least two electors as is necessary to manually recount the ballots. A counting team must have, when possible, members of at least two political parties. A candidate involved in the race shall not be a member of the counting team.
- (b) Each duplicate ballot prepared pursuant to s. 101.5614(4) or s. 102.141(7) shall be compared with the original ballot to ensure the correctness of the duplicate.
- (c) If a counting team is unable to determine whether the ballot contains a clear indication that the voter has made a definite choice, the ballot shall be presented to the county canvassing board for a determination.
- (d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified voting system which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.

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The rules shall address, at a minimum, the following areas:

- 1. Security of ballots during the recount process;
- 2. Time and place of recounts;
- 3. Public observance of recounts:
- 4. Objections to ballot determinations;
- 5. Record of recount proceedings; and
- 6. Procedures relating to candidate and petitioner representatives; and
- 7. Procedures relating to the certification and the use of automatic tabulating equipment that is not part of a voting system.
- (6) Nothing in this section precludes a county canvassing board or local board involved in the recount from comparing a digital image of a ballot to the corresponding physical paper ballot during a manual recount.

Section 15. Effective upon becoming a law, subsection (4) of section 103.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

103.091 Political parties.

(4) Any political party other than a minor political party may by rule provide for the membership of its state or county executive committee to be elected for 4-year terms at the primary election in each year a presidential election is held. The terms begin shall commence on the first day of the month following each presidential general election, + but the names of candidates for political party offices may shall not be placed on the ballot at any other election. The results of such election shall be determined by a plurality of the votes cast. In such event, electors seeking to qualify for such office shall do so with the Department of State or supervisor of elections no

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not earlier than noon of the 71st day, or later than noon of the 67th day, preceding the primary election. Notwithstanding the qualifying period prescribed in this subsection, a qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted no earlier than 14 days before the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period. The outgoing chair of each county executive committee shall, within 30 days after the committee members take office, hold an organizational meeting of all newly elected members for the purpose of electing officers. The chair of each state executive committee shall, within 60 days after the committee members take office, hold an organizational meeting of all newly elected members for the purpose of electing officers.

Section 16. Section 104.0616, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 104.0616 Vote-by-mail ballots and voting; violations.-
- (1) For purposes of this section, the term "immediate family" means a person's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the person or the person's spouse.
- (2) Any person who provides or offers to provide, and any person who accepts, a pecuniary or other benefit in exchange for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering, or otherwise physically possessing any more than two vote-by-mail ballots, except per election in addition to his or her own ballot, or a ballot belonging to an immediate family member, or except as provided in ss. 101.6105-101.694, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 17. Subsection (17) is added to section 901.15,



447	Florida Statutes, to read:
448	901.15 When arrest by officer without warrant is lawful.—A
449	law enforcement officer may arrest a person without a warrant
450	when:
451	(17) There is probable cause to believe that a person has
452	committed a violation involving a vote-by-mail ballot as
453	provided in s. 104.0616.
454	Section 18. Subsection (11) is added to section 106.08,
455	Florida Statutes, to read:
456	106.08 Contributions; limitations on; preemption.—
457	(11)(a) A county, a municipality, or any other local
458	governmental entity is expressly preempted from enacting or
459	adopting:
460	1. Contribution limits that differ from the limitations
461	<pre>established in subsection (1);</pre>
462	2. Any limitation or restriction involving contributions to
463	a political committee or an electioneering communications
464	organization; or
465	3. Any limitation or restriction on expenditures for an
466	electioneering communication or an independent expenditure.
467	(b) Any existing or future limitation or restriction
468	enacted or adopted by a county, a municipality, or any other
469	local governmental entity which is in conflict with this
470	subsection is void.
471	Section 19. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
472	act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
473	becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.
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And the title is amended as follows: Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

> A bill to be entitled An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining the term "automatic tabulating equipment" for purposes of the Florida Election Code; amending ss. 97.052 and 97.053, F.S.; revising requirements for the uniform statewide voter registration application and the acceptance of such applications; amending s. 97.0585, F.S.; deleting an exemption from public records requirements for information related to a voter registration applicant's or voter's prior felony conviction and his or her restoration of voting rights to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 101.043, F.S.; deleting a provision that prohibits the use of an address appearing on identification presented by an elector at the polls as a basis to confirm an elector's legal residence; amending s. 101.051, F.S.; prohibiting the solicitation of electors to offer assistance with voting within the no-solicitation zone surrounding the entrance of a polling place or early voting site; amending s. 101.131, F.S.; revising requirements for eligibility to serve as a poll watcher; amending s. 101.5612, F.S.; revising the timeframes for conducting public preelection testing of automatic tabulating equipment; amending s. 101.5614, F.S.; removing the requirement that

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duplicate ballots be made of vote-by-mail ballots containing overvoted races; revising procedures governing the canvassing of returns to specify usage of a voting system's automatic tabulating equipment; amending s. 101.6103, F.S.; revising the timeframe in which the supervisor of elections must mail ballots in elections conducted under the Mail Ballot Election Act; amending s. 102.031, F.S.; prohibiting owners, operators, or lessees of property on which polling places or early voting sites are located from prohibiting the solicitation of voters by a candidate or a candidate's designee outside the no-solicitation zone during polling hours; amending s. 102.141, F.S.; specifying the circumstances under which ballots must be processed through automatic tabulating equipment in a recount; amending s. 102.166, F.S.; specifying the manner by which a manual recount may be conducted; revising requirements for hardware or software used in a manual recount; authorizing overvotes and undervotes to be identified and sorted physically or digitally in a manual recount; revising minimum requirements for Department of State rules to require procedures regarding the certification and use of automatic tabulating equipment for manual recounts; providing construction; amending s. 103.091, F.S.; authorizing a qualifying office to accept and hold qualifying papers for candidates for political party executive committees before the beginning of the qualifying period; amending s. 104.0616, F.S.; prohibiting a

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person from providing, offering to provide, or accepting a pecuniary or other benefit in exchange for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering, or otherwise physically possessing any vote-by-mail ballot; providing exceptions; providing a penalty; amending s. 901.15, F.S.; authorizing a law enforcement officer to arrest a person without a warrant when probable cause exists that the person committed a specified violation involving a vote-bymail ballot; amending s. 106.08, F.S.; preempting counties, municipalities, and other local governmental entities from enacting or adopting any limitation or restriction involving certain contributions and expenditures, or establishing contribution limits different than those established in the Florida Election Code; providing applicability; providing effective dates.