

By Senator Jones

40-615-01

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to elections; amending s.
 3 97.012, F.S.; prohibiting the Secretary of
 4 State from specified political activities;
 5 authorizes the Commission on Ethics to
 6 investigate violations; providing penalties;
 7 authorizing the Attorney General to bring a
 8 civil action to recover civil penalties
 9 assessed by the commission; providing an
 10 effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Section 97.012, Florida Statutes, is
 15 amended to read:

16 97.012 Secretary of State as chief election officer.--

17 (1) The Secretary of State is the chief election
 18 officer of the state, and it is his or her responsibility to:

19 (a)~~(1)~~ Obtain and maintain uniformity in the
 20 application, operation, and interpretation of the election
 21 laws.

22 (b)~~(2)~~ Provide uniform standards for the proper and
 23 equitable implementation of the registration laws.

24 (c)~~(3)~~ Actively seek out and collect the data and
 25 statistics necessary to knowledgeably scrutinize the
 26 effectiveness of election laws.

27 (d)~~(4)~~ Provide technical assistance to the supervisors
 28 of elections on voter education and election personnel
 29 training services.

30 (e)~~(5)~~ Provide technical assistance to the supervisors
 31 of elections on voting systems.

- 1 (f)~~(6)~~ Provide voter education assistance to the
2 public.
- 3 (g)~~(7)~~ Coordinate the state's responsibilities under
4 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
- 5 (h)~~(8)~~ Provide training to all affected state agencies
6 on the necessary procedures for proper implementation of this
7 chapter.
- 8 (i)~~(9)~~ Ensure that all registration applications and
9 forms prescribed or approved by the department are in
10 compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- 11 (j)~~(10)~~ Coordinate with the United States Department
12 of Defense so that armed forces recruitment offices administer
13 voter registration in a manner consistent with the procedures
14 set forth in this code for voter registration agencies.
- 15 (k)~~(11)~~ Create and maintain a central voter file.
- 16 (l)~~(12)~~ Maintain a voter fraud hotline and provide
17 election fraud education to the public.
- 18 (2)(a) The Secretary of State may not:
- 19 1. Act as a leader of or hold an office in a political
20 organization.
- 21 2. Publicly endorse or publicly oppose any candidate
22 for public office or any ballot issue.
- 23 3. Make speeches on behalf of a political
24 organization.
- 25 4. Attend political party functions.
- 26 5. Solicit funds for or pay an assessment or make a
27 contribution to a political organization or candidate, or
28 purchase tickets for a political party dinner or other
29 function.
- 30 6. Accept funds for or from any candidate or political
31 organization.

