

By Senators Dyer, Dawson, Lawson, Miller, Rossin, Wasserman
Schultz, Campbell and Klein

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to elections; providing
legislative findings; requiring supervisors of
elections to conduct voter-education projects;
requiring reports to the Division of Elections;
prescribing duties of the division; providing
an appropriation; prescribing duties of the
State Board of Education with respect to civic
and voter education; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature finds that the integrity
and accuracy of the electoral process will be enhanced as a
result of increases in the knowledge of and sophistication in
that process by the electors of this state. In order to
facilitate the informed participation by voters in this state:

(1) The supervisor of elections in each county shall
conduct a voter-education program before the 2002 General
Election and, by comparing the percentage of misvoted ballots
in the 2000 General Election to the percentage of misvoted
ballots in the 2002 General Election, determine the
effectiveness of the voter-education program. The supervisors
shall report to the Division of Elections, describing the
programs and listing the respective percentages and the
division shall determine the relative effectiveness of
voter-education programs county-by-county. The division shall
report the results of this determination to the Legislature no
later than February 1, 2003, and shall include with its report

1 any recommendations for statutory, statewide implementation of
2 the most effective programs.

3 (2) The sum of is appropriated from the General
4 Revenue Fund to the Division of Elections for the purpose of
5 making grants to supervisors of elections during the 2001-2002
6 fiscal year to fund voter-education programs. The distribution
7 of such funds shall be made per capita among the counties
8 based on actual voter registration and not per capita based on
9 each county's share of the total number of voters
10 participating in the 2000 General Election.

11 (3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for
12 expanding quality civic education programs in high schools in
13 the state. The expansion must contain voter-education
14 programs, including basic instruction in voter skills. The
15 supervisor of elections in each county shall cooperate with
16 the county school board in conducting and implementing
17 voter-education programs provided for in this subsection, but
18 a voter-education under this subsection is in addition to, and
19 not in lieu of, a program required under subsection (1).

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Requires supervisors of elections to conduct
25 voter-education programs and to report the results of
26 such programs, represented by a comparison of misvoted
27 ballots in the 2000 General Election versus the 2002
28 General Election. Appropriates moneys to the Division of
29 Elections for distribution to counties to fund voter
30 education. Requires the State Board of Education to
31 improve civic education, with emphasis on voter
education, in high schools.