



HB 0395

2003

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to voting absentee ballots in person;
 3 amending s. 101.657, F.S.; authorizing the use of certain
 4 buildings as branch offices for purposes of voting
 5 absentee ballots in person; providing for early voting by
 6 absentee ballot in person in the main office or branch
 7 offices of the supervisor of elections; providing
 8 rulemaking authority; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 101.657, Florida
 13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 101.657 Voting absentee ballots in person.--

15 (2) (a) As an alternative to the provisions of ss. 101.64
 16 and 101.65, the supervisor of elections may allow an elector to
 17 cast an absentee ballot in the main office or any branch office
 18 of the supervisor by depositing the voted ballot in a voting
 19 device used by the supervisor to collect or tabulate ballots.
 20 For purposes of this section, a branch office may include a
 21 single building or complex of buildings whose residents are
 22 members of a condominium or homeowners' association comprised of
 23 at least 1,000 registered voters.

24 (b) Voting by absentee ballot at the main office or any
 25 branch office, as determined by the supervisor, shall commence
 26 14 days prior to an election. However, the results or tabulation
 27 may not be made before the close of the polls on election day.

28 (c) (a) The elector must provide picture identification and
 29 must complete an In-Office Voter Certificate in substantially
 30 the following form:



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IN-OFFICE VOTER CERTIFICATE

I, _____, am a qualified elector in this election and registered voter of _____ County, Florida. I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am the person so listed on the voter registration rolls of _____ County and that I reside at the listed address. I understand that if I commit or attempt to commit fraud in connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more than once in an election I could be convicted of a felony of the third degree and both fined up to \$5,000 and imprisoned for up to 5 years. I understand that my failure to sign this certificate and have my signature witnessed invalidates my ballot.

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

... (Address) ...

... (City/State) ...

... (Name of Witness) ...

... (Signature of Witness) ...

... (Type of identification provided) ...

(d) ~~(b)~~ Any elector may challenge an elector seeking to cast an absentee ballot under the provisions of s. 101.111. Any



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61 challenged ballot must be placed in a regular absentee ballot
62 envelope. The canvassing board shall review the ballot and
63 decide the validity of the ballot by majority vote.

64 (e)~~(e)~~ The canvass of returns for ballots cast under this
65 subsection shall be substantially the same as votes cast by
66 electors in precincts, as provided in s. 101.5614.

67 (f) The Department of State shall adopt rules pursuant to
68 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this
69 subsection, including, at a minimum, provisions for the
70 selection and security of the main office or branch offices, and
71 their respective polling places, for the purposes of this
72 subsection.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2004.