

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to voter intimidation; creating s.
 3 104.0615, F.S.; providing a popular name; prohibiting a
 4 person from using or threatening to use force, violence,
 5 or intimidation to induce or compel an individual to vote
 6 or refrain from voting, to refrain from registering to
 7 vote, or to refrain from acting as an election official or
 8 poll watcher; prohibiting a person from knowingly using
 9 false information to challenge an individual's right to
 10 vote, to induce or attempt to induce an individual to
 11 refrain from voting or registering to vote, or to induce
 12 or attempt to induce an individual to refrain from acting
 13 as an election official or poll watcher; prohibiting a
 14 person from knowingly destroying, mutilating, or defacing
 15 a voter registration form or election ballot or
 16 obstructing or delaying the delivery of a voter
 17 registration form or election ballot; providing criminal
 18 penalties; providing an effective date.

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

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 22 Section 1. Section 104.0615, Florida Statutes, is created
 23 to read:

24 104.0615 Voter intimidation or suppression prohibited;
 25 criminal penalties.--

26 (1) This act may be cited as the "Voter Protection Act."

27 (2) A person may not directly or indirectly use or
 28 threaten to use force, violence, or intimidation or any tactic

29 of coercion or intimidation to induce or compel an individual
 30 to:

31 (a) Vote or refrain from voting;

32 (b) Vote or refrain from voting for any particular
 33 individual or ballot measure;

34 (c) Refrain from registering to vote; or

35 (d) Refrain from acting as a legally authorized election
 36 official or poll watcher.

37 (3) A person may not knowingly use false information to:

38 (a) Challenge an individual's right to vote;

39 (b) Induce or attempt to induce an individual to refrain
 40 from voting or registering to vote; or

41 (c) Induce or attempt to induce an individual to refrain
 42 from acting as a legally authorized election official or poll
 43 watcher.

44 (4) A person may not knowingly destroy, mutilate, or
 45 deface a voter registration form or election ballot or obstruct
 46 or delay the delivery of a voter registration form or election
 47 ballot.

48 (5) A person who violates subsection (2) commits a felony
 49 of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.
 50 775.083, or s. 775.084. A person who violates subsection (3) or
 51 subsection (4) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable
 52 as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.