

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to election reform; amending s. 100.011,
 3 F.S.; providing a limitation on who may pay election
 4 expenses; amending s. 102.112, F.S.; providing a procedure
 5 for accepting amended county returns; creating s. 104.186,
 6 F.S.; prohibiting payment or receipt of payment for
 7 gathering initiative petition signatures; providing
 8 penalties; 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 (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection
 13 (4) of section 100.011, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 100.011 Opening and closing of polls, all elections;
 15 expenses.--

16 (3) The expenses of holding all elections for county and
 17 state offices necessarily incurred shall be paid out of the
 18 treasury of the county or state, as the case may be, in the same
 19 manner and by the same officers as in general elections. No
 20 party other than the county or state may pay election expenses
 21 as they apply under this subsection.

22 (4)(a) The provisions of any special law to the contrary
 23 notwithstanding, the expenses of holding a special district or
 24 community development district election, or the district's
 25 proportionate share of regular election costs, as the case may
 26 be, shall be paid out of the district's treasury and in the same
 27 manner as in general elections. No party other than the district
 28 may pay election expenses as they apply under this subsection.

29 | This subsection applies to any district, whether created by or
 30 | pursuant to special or general law, which is a special district
 31 | as defined in s. 200.001(8)(c) or a community development
 32 | district as defined in s. 190.003(6).

33 | Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 102.112,
 34 | Florida Statutes, to read:

35 | 102.112 Deadline for submission of county returns to the
 36 | Department of State.--

37 | (5) If the county canvassing board reports a clerical
 38 | error to the department within 5 days after the certified date,
 39 | the department may accept the amended returns.

40 | Section 3. Section 104.186, Florida Statutes, is created
 41 | to read:

42 | 104.186 Payment for gathering initiative petition
 43 | signatures; penalty.--No person may pay another person to gather
 44 | signatures for an initiative petition. A person who gathers
 45 | signatures for an initiative petition must do so on a voluntary
 46 | basis only. Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor of
 47 | the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
 48 | 775.083.

49 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.