

By Senator Aronberg

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the chief election officer; amending s.
3 97.012, F.S.; requiring that the Secretary of State
4 endeavor to be nonpartisan in all decisions and statements
5 related to elections; prohibiting the secretary from
6 performing certain actions; providing an effective date.
7

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Subsection (16) is added to section 97.012,
11 Florida Statutes, to read:

12 97.012 Secretary of State as chief election officer.--The
13 Secretary of State is the chief election officer of the state,
14 and it is his or her responsibility to:

15 (16) Endeavor to be nonpartisan in all decisions and
16 statements. The secretary may not:

17 (a) Directly or indirectly engage in any political campaign
18 or in any partisan political activity except to vote;

19 (b) Serve as an officer of any political party or any
20 partisan organization;

21 (c) Publicly support or oppose any partisan organization or
22 candidate, including candidates for any local, state, or federal
23 office;

24 (d) Allow his or her name to be used in connection with any
25 activity of a political organization;

26 (e) Make speeches on behalf of any political organization
27 or any candidate;

28 (f) Attend political gatherings;

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29 (g) Take a public position for or against, or participate
30 in, a campaign to support or oppose any ballot initiative or
31 ballot measure; or

32 (h) Make any contribution to, or solicit funds on behalf
33 of, any political party, partisan organization, or candidate,
34 including a candidate for any local, state, or federal office.

35 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.