

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.

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 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
 18 campaign 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
 22 or candidate, including candidates for any local, state, or
 23 federal office;

24 (d) Allow his or her name to be used in connection with
 25 any 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.