

By Senator Joyner

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to early voting; amending s. 101.657,
3 F.S.; expanding the list of available sites at which
4 early voting may be held to include any location
5 designated by a supervisor of elections meeting the
6 requirements of state law; deleting a requirement that
7 an early voting site be designated and used as such
8 for at least 1 year before an election; requiring that
9 the Division of Elections of the Department of State
10 establish by rule a formula for determining the number
11 of early voting sites in each county; expanding early
12 voting hours to 12 hours per weekday and 12 hours in
13 the aggregate each weekend at each site during the
14 applicable periods; providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
19 section 101.657, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

20 101.657 Early voting.—

21 (1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of
22 elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or
23 branch office of the supervisor, any city hall or public library
24 facility, or any other location designated by the supervisor
25 meeting the requirements of this section. The supervisor shall
26 mark, code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct
27 for each early voted ballot. In order for a branch office to be
28 used for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the
29 supervisor ~~and shall have been designated and used as such for~~

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30 ~~at least 1 year prior to the election. The supervisor may also~~
31 ~~designate any city hall or permanent public library facility as~~
32 ~~early voting sites; however, if so designated, the~~ Early voting
33 sites must be geographically located so as to provide all voters
34 in the county an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as
35 is practicable. The Division of Elections of the Department of
36 State shall establish by rule a formula for determining the
37 number of early voting sites in each county. The results or
38 tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not be made
39 before the close of the polls on election day. Results shall be
40 reported by precinct.

41 (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before an
42 election and end on the 2nd day before an election. For purposes
43 of a special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting
44 shall begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd
45 day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 12 &
46 hours per weekday and 12 & hours in the aggregate each weekend
47 at each site during the applicable periods. Early voting sites
48 shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7 p.m.
49 on each applicable day.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.