

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to early voting; amending s. 101.657,  
 3           F.S.; deleting requirements that must be met in order for  
 4           branch offices to be used as early voting sites;  
 5           authorizing the supervisor of elections to designate any  
 6           facility open to the public as an early voting site;  
 7           requiring that early voting commence on a specified day  
 8           before a primary election and a specified day before a  
 9           general election; requiring that early voting be provided  
 10          for a minimum number of hours each day; authorizing the  
 11          supervisor to allow early voting sites to remain open each  
 12          day for as long as the supervisor deems necessary;  
 13          providing an effective date.

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

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

19           101.657 Early voting.--

20           (1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of  
 21           elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or  
 22           branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark,  
 23           code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for  
 24           each early voted ballot. ~~In order for a branch office to be used~~  
 25           ~~for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the~~  
 26           ~~supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for~~  
 27           ~~at least 1 year prior to the election.~~ The supervisor may also  
 28           designate any city hall, or permanent public library facility,

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29 or any facility open to the public as early voting sites;  
30 however, if so designated, the sites must be geographically  
31 located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal  
32 opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. The  
33 results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not  
34 be made before the close of the polls on election day. Results  
35 shall be reported by precinct.

36 (d) Early voting shall begin on the 9th day before a  
37 primary election and on the 15th day before a general an  
38 election and end on the 2nd day before an election. For purposes  
39 of a special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting  
40 shall begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd  
41 day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for at  
42 least 8 hours each day ~~per weekday and 8 hours in the aggregate~~  
43 ~~each weekend at each site~~ during the applicable periods. The  
44 supervisor may allow early voting sites to remain open each day  
45 for as long as the supervisor deems necessary. ~~Early voting~~  
46 ~~sites shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7~~  
47 ~~p.m. on each applicable day.~~

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