By Senator Lawson

6-01556-09   20091930__

1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to early voting sites; amending s.

3   101.657, F.S.; permitting the supervisor of elections

4   to designate additional early voting sites; providing

5   an effective date.

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

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9   Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 101.657, Florida

10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11   101.657 Early voting.—

12   (1)(a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of

13 elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or

14 branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark,

15 code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for

16 each early voted ballot. In order for a branch office to be used

17 for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the

18 supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for

19 at least 1 year prior to the election. The supervisor may also

20 designate any city hall or <u>other</u> permanent public ~~library~~

21 facility as early voting sites; however, if so designated, the

22 sites must be geographically located so as to provide all voters

23 in the county an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as

24 is practicable. The results or tabulation of votes cast during

25 early voting may not be made before the close of the polls on

26 election day. Results shall be reported by precinct.

27   (b) The supervisor shall designate each early voting site

28 by no later than the 30th day prior to an election and shall

29 designate an early voting area, as defined in s. 97.021, at each

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30 early voting site.

31   (c) All early voting sites in a county shall be open on the

32 same days for the same amount of time and shall allow any person

33 in line at the closing of an early voting site to vote.

34   (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before an

35 election and end on the 2nd day before an election. For purposes

36 of a special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting

37 shall begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd

38 day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 8

39 hours per weekday and 8 hours in the aggregate each weekend at

40 each site during the applicable periods. Early voting sites

41 shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7 p.m.

42 on each applicable day.

43   (e) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 100.3605,

44 municipalities may provide early voting in municipal elections

45 that are not held in conjunction with county or state elections.

46 If a municipality provides early voting, it may designate as

47 many sites as necessary and shall conduct its activities in

48 accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a)-(c). The

49 supervisor is not required to conduct early voting if it is

50 provided pursuant to this subsection.

51   (f) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 189.405, special

52 districts may provide early voting in any district election not

53 held in conjunction with county or state elections. If a special

54 district provides early voting, it may designate as many sites

55 as necessary and shall conduct its activities in accordance with

56 the provisions of paragraphs (a)-(c). The supervisor is not

57 required to conduct early voting if it is provided pursuant to

58 this subsection.

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