

By Senator Siplin

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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
 4 for branch offices to be used as early voting sites;
 5 authorizing the supervisor of elections to designate
 6 any facility open to the public as an early voting
 7 site; requiring that early voting commence on a
 8 specified day before a primary election and a
 9 specified day before a general election; requiring
 10 that early voting be provided for a minimum number of
 11 hours each day; authorizing the supervisor to allow
 12 early voting sites to remain open each day for as long
 13 as the supervisor deems necessary; providing an
 14 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. The supervisor shall mark,
 24 code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for
 25 each early voted ballot. ~~In order for a branch office to be used~~
 26 ~~for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the~~
 27 ~~supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for~~
 28 ~~at least 1 year prior to the election.~~ The supervisor may also
 29 designate any city hall, or permanent public library facility,

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

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

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