

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to elections; amending s. 101.62, F.S.;
 3 authorizing an elector to attain status as a permanent
 4 absentee voter; specifying circumstances under which a
 5 request for an absentee ballot may be considered canceled;
 6 amending s. 101.657, F.S.; specifying sites that may be
 7 used as early voting facilities; eliminating certain
 8 requirements for branch offices that are used for early
 9 voting; revising the number of hours for which early
 10 voting must be provided during applicable periods;
 11 amending s. 101.694, F.S.; providing that the postcard
 12 application request for an absentee ballot is effective
 13 for all future elections; providing an effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 18 101.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

19 101.62 Request for absentee ballots.--

20 (1) (a) The supervisor may accept a request for an absentee
 21 ballot from an elector in person or in writing. Except as
 22 provided in s. 101.694, one request shall be deemed sufficient
 23 to receive an absentee ballot for all future elections ~~through~~
 24 ~~the next two regularly scheduled general elections~~, unless the
 25 elector or the elector's designee indicates at the time the
 26 request is made that the elections for which the elector desires
 27 to receive the an absentee ballot only for specific elections. A
 28 ~~Such~~ request for an absentee ballot may be considered canceled

29 | when any first-class mail sent by the supervisor to the elector
 30 | is returned as undeliverable or when the elector notifies the
 31 | supervisor in person or in writing that he or she no longer
 32 | wishes to receive an absentee ballot.

33 | Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 34 | section 101.657, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

35 | 101.657 Early voting.--

36 | (1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of
 37 | elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or
 38 | branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark,
 39 | code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for
 40 | each early voted ballot. ~~In order for a branch office to be used~~
 41 | ~~for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the~~
 42 | ~~supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for~~
 43 | ~~at least 1 year prior to the election.~~ The supervisor may also
 44 | designate any city hall, ~~or~~ permanent public library facility,
 45 | or any other facility open to the public as early voting sites;
 46 | however, if so designated, the sites must be geographically
 47 | located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal
 48 | opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. The
 49 | results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not
 50 | be made before the close of the polls on election day. Results
 51 | shall be reported by precinct.

52 | (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before an
 53 | election and end on the 2nd day before an election. For purposes
 54 | of a special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting
 55 | shall begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd
 56 | day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 8

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57 | hours each day ~~per weekday and 8 hours in the aggregate each~~
58 | ~~weekend~~ at each site during the applicable periods. Early voting
59 | sites shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7
60 | p.m. on each applicable day.

61 | Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 101.694, Florida
62 | Statutes, is amended to read:

63 | 101.694 Mailing of ballots upon receipt of federal
64 | postcard application.--

65 | (1) Upon receipt of a federal postcard application for an
66 | absentee ballot executed by a person whose registration is in
67 | order or whose application is sufficient to register or update
68 | the registration of that person, the supervisor shall mail to
69 | the applicant a ballot, if the ballots are available for
70 | mailing. The federal postcard application request for an
71 | absentee ballot shall be effective for all future elections
72 | ~~through the next two regularly scheduled general elections.~~

73 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.