

By Senator Rich

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

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

18
 19 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 20 101.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 101.62 Request for absentee ballots.—

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

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30 ~~Such~~ request for an absentee ballot may be considered canceled
31 when any first-class mail sent by the supervisor to the elector
32 is returned as undeliverable or when the elector notifies the
33 supervisor in person or in writing that he or she no longer
34 wishes to receive an absentee ballot.

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

37 101.657 Early voting.-

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

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

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

63 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 101.694, Florida
64 Statutes, is amended to read:

65 101.694 Mailing of ballots upon receipt of federal postcard
66 application.-

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

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