

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to early voting; amending s. 101.657,
 3 F.S.; providing additional facilities that may be
 4 designated as an early voting site; revising the date that
 5 early voting shall begin for a primary election; reducing
 6 the time for early voting in a primary election; providing
 7 an effective date.

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

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

13 101.657 Early voting.—

14 (1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of
 15 elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or
 16 branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark,
 17 code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for
 18 each early voted ballot. ~~In order for a branch office to be used~~
 19 ~~for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the~~
 20 ~~supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for~~
 21 ~~at least 1 year prior to the election.~~ The supervisor may also
 22 designate as an early voting site any city hall or permanent
 23 public library facility, civic center, convention center,
 24 conference center, fairgrounds, or other location designated by
 25 the supervisor as meeting the requirements of this section, if
 26 the supervisor determines the site is sufficient to meet the
 27 needs of the voters in that county. ~~as early voting sites;~~
 28 However, if so designated, the sites must be geographically

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29 | located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal
30 | opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. The
31 | results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not
32 | be made before the close of the polls on election day. Results
33 | shall be reported by precinct.

34 | (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before a
35 | general ~~an~~ election and on the 8th day before a primary election
36 | and end on the 2nd day before the ~~an~~ election. For purposes of a
37 | special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting shall
38 | begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd day
39 | before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 8 hours
40 | per weekday and 8 hours in the aggregate each weekend at each
41 | site during the applicable periods. Early voting sites shall
42 | open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7 p.m. on
43 | each applicable day.

44 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.