

By Senator Rich

34-00799A-11

2011848

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to early voting; amending s. 101.657,  
3           F.S.; expanding the list of available sites at which  
4           early voting may be held to include specified  
5           facilities or any other location designated by a  
6           supervisor of elections as meeting the requirements of  
7           state law; deleting a requirement that an early voting  
8           site be designated and used as such for at least 1  
9           year before an election; providing requirements for  
10          determining the number of early voting sites each  
11          county must operate; expanding early voting hours to  
12          12 hours per weekday and 12 hours in the aggregate  
13          each weekend at each site during the applicable  
14          periods; providing an effective date.

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

17  
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 and may allow such early voting  
24          in any city hall, public library facility, courthouse, place of  
25          worship, civic center, convention center, community center,  
26          county government center, conference center, community college  
27          facility, university or college, fairgrounds, or any other  
28          location designated by the supervisor as meeting the  
29          requirements of this section. The supervisor shall mark, code,

34-00799A-11

2011848

30 indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for each  
31 early voted ballot. ~~In order for a branch office to be used for~~  
32 ~~early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the supervisor~~  
33 ~~and shall have been designated and used as such for at least 1~~  
34 ~~year prior to the election. The supervisor may also designate~~  
35 ~~any city hall or permanent public library facility as Early~~  
36 ~~voting sites; however, if so designated, the sites must be~~  
37 geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county  
38 an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is  
39 practicable. Each county shall operate the same total number of  
40 early voting sites that it used for the 2008 general election,  
41 or one early voting site plus one additional early voting site  
42 for every complete set of 65,000 registered voters in the county  
43 as of July 1 of each general election year, whichever is  
44 greater. The results or tabulation of votes cast during early  
45 voting may not be made before the close of the polls on election  
46 day. Results shall be reported by precinct.

47 (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before an  
48 election and end on the 2nd day before an election. For purposes  
49 of a special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting  
50 shall begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd  
51 day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 12 &  
52 hours per weekday and 12 & hours in the aggregate each weekend  
53 at each site during the applicable periods. Early voting sites  
54 shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7 p.m.  
55 on each applicable day.

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