

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to freeholder voting; amending s.
 3 100.241, F.S.; deleting the current process and
 4 creating a new process by which an elector may
 5 establish that he or she is a freeholder and qualified
 6 to vote in an election or referendum limited to
 7 freeholders who are qualified to vote; providing an
 8 effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Section 100.241, Florida Statutes, is amended
 13 to read:

14 100.241 Freeholder voting; election; penalties for
 15 ineligible persons who vote as freeholders.—

16 (1) In any election or referendum in which only electors
 17 who are freeholders are qualified to vote, the regular
 18 registration books covering the precincts located within the
 19 geographical area in which the election or referendum is to be
 20 held shall be used.

21 (2) Qualification and registration of electors
 22 participating in a freeholder ~~such an~~ election or referendum
 23 subject to this section shall be the same as prescribed for
 24 voting in other elections under this code, and, in addition,
 25 each such elector shall submit a written declaration, verified
 26 pursuant to s. 92.525, affirming ~~proof by affidavit made before~~
 27 ~~an inspector~~ that the elector is a freeholder who is a qualified
 28 elector residing in the county, district, or municipality in

CS/HB 75

2012

29 | which the election or referendum is to be held.

30 | (3) Each registered elector who submits the written
31 | declaration ~~makes a sworn affidavit of ownership to the~~
32 | ~~inspectors,~~ giving either a legal description, address, or
33 | location of property in the elector's name which is not wholly
34 | exempt from taxation is ~~shall be~~ entitled to vote in the
35 | election or referendum and is ~~shall be~~ considered a freeholder.

36 | (4) The actual costs of conducting a freeholder ~~such~~
37 | ~~freeholders'~~ election or referendum subject to this section
38 | shall be paid by the county, district, or municipality requiring
39 | the election or referendum ~~same to be held~~.

40 | (5) ~~A It is unlawful for any person~~ may not ~~to~~ vote in any
41 | county, district, or other election or referendum which is
42 | limited to a vote of the electors who are freeholders, unless
43 | the ~~such~~ person is a freeholder and a qualified elector. ~~A~~ Any
44 | person who violates ~~the provisions of~~ this subsection commits ~~is~~
45 | ~~guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
46 | provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

47 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.