

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to elections; creating s. 97.0111,
 3 F.S.; establishing the rights of the electorate;
 4 requiring that any restriction on voting rights or any
 5 change in voting practices be narrowly tailored to
 6 serve a compelling state interest; providing equal
 7 protection of the right to vote; authorizing the use
 8 of a violation of the act as a claim or defense in a
 9 judicial proceeding; providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Section 97.0111, Florida Statutes, is created
 14 to read:

15 97.0111 Rights of the electorate.-

16 (1) A United States citizen who is at least 18 years of
 17 age and who is a resident of this state has an explicit,
 18 fundamental right to vote in any election held in the political
 19 subdivision in which the citizen resides. The right to vote may
 20 not be denied or abridged by this state or its political
 21 subdivisions or by any private or public entity or person. Any
 22 restriction on voting rights, or any change in voting practices
 23 or procedures which would diminish access to the ballot, must be
 24 narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest.

25 (2) A United States citizen who is at least 18 years of
 26 age and who is a resident of this state shall have equal

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27 protection of his or her right to vote.

28 (3) A person whose right to vote has been denied or
29 abridged by this state or its political subdivisions or by any
30 private or public entity or person in violation of this section
31 may assert such violation as a claim or defense in a judicial
32 proceeding to obtain appropriate relief.

33 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.