

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Community Affairs

BILL: CS/SB 1058

INTRODUCER: Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Smith

SUBJECT: Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

DATE: April 14, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carlton	Roberts	EE	Fav/CS
2.	Stearns	Yeatman	CA	Favorable
3.			RC	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1058 permits a county canvassing board to begin canvassing absentee ballots as soon as the Supervisor of Elections successfully completes testing of the electronic tabulating equipment.

II. Present Situation:

Section 101.68(2), F.S., provides that a county canvassing board may begin the canvassing of absentee ballots at 7 a.m. on the 15th day before the election, but not later than noon on the day following the election.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill permits a county canvassing board to begin canvassing absentee ballots as soon as the Supervisor of Elections successfully completes testing of the electronic tabulating equipment. The bill also makes conforming changes to the instructions provided to absentee voters to reflect the longer canvassing period for absentee ballots. Those instructions are contained in ss. 101.65 and 101.6923, F.S.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 101.68, 101.65, and 101.6923.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Ethics and Elections on March 10, 2015:

Specifies that canvassing of absentee ballots can begin upon successful completion of testing of the electronic vote tabulating equipment instead of 28 days prior to the election.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
