

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to vote-by-mail ballots; amending s.
3 101.68, F.S.; requiring the supervisor of elections to
4 notify each elector whose vote-by-mail ballot has been
5 rejected as illegal of the process to cure such
6 ballot; requiring the supervisor of elections to make
7 a good faith effort to notify the elector within a
8 specified time; requiring the supervisor to allow
9 submission of an affidavit to cure specified signature
10 discrepancies; providing procedures to be used by the
11 supervisor of elections in verifying an elector's
12 signature; revising vote-by-mail ballot affidavit
13 instructions; providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of subsection (4)
18 of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

19 101.68 Canvassing of vote-by-mail ballot.—

20 (4) (a) The supervisor of elections shall, on behalf of the
21 county canvassing board, notify each elector whose ballot was
22 rejected as illegal, ~~and~~ provide the specific reason the ballot
23 was rejected, and, if the ballot can be cured pursuant to this
24 subsection, notify each elector of the process to cure the
25 rejected ballot. The supervisor shall make a good faith effort

26 | to notify the elector before 5 p.m. on the day before an
27 | election. The supervisor shall mail a voter registration
28 | application to the elector to be completed indicating the
29 | elector's current signature if the elector's ballot was rejected
30 | due to a difference between the elector's signature on the
31 | voter's certificate or vote-by-mail ballot affidavit and the
32 | elector's signature in the registration books or precinct
33 | register. This section does not prohibit the supervisor from
34 | providing additional methods for updating an elector's
35 | signature.

36 | (b) Until 5 p.m. on the day before an election, the
37 | supervisor shall allow an elector who has returned a vote-by-
38 | mail ballot that does not include the elector's signature, or
39 | that was rejected due to a difference between the elector's
40 | signature on the voter's certificate or vote-by-mail ballot
41 | affidavit and the elector's signature in the registration books
42 | or precinct register, to complete and submit an affidavit in
43 | order to cure the ~~unsigned~~ vote-by-mail ballot. A vote-by-mail
44 | ballot may only be counted if:

45 | 1. The signature on the voter's certificate or the
46 | affidavit matches the elector's signature in the registration
47 | books or precinct register. However, in the case of an
48 | affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subparagraph
49 | (d)3. must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

50 | 2. The affidavit contains a signature that does not match

51 the elector's signature in the registration books or precinct
52 register, but the elector has submitted current and valid
53 identification pursuant to sub-subparagraph (d)3.a. which
54 confirms the identity of the elector.

55 (d) Instructions must accompany the vote-by-mail ballot
56 affidavit in substantially the following form:

57 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE
58 AFFIDAVIT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR
59 BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

60 1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail ballot will
61 be counted, your affidavit should be completed and returned as
62 soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of
63 elections of the county in which your precinct is located no
64 later than 5 p.m. on the 2nd day before the election.

65 2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's
66 Signature).

67 3. You must make a copy of one of the following forms of
68 identification:

69 a. Current and valid identification that includes your
70 name and photograph: Florida driver license; Florida
71 identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety
72 and Motor Vehicles; United States passport; debit or credit
73 card; military identification; student identification;
74 retirement center identification; neighborhood association
75 identification; public assistance identification; veteran health

76 identification card issued by the United States Department of
77 Veterans Affairs; a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon
78 or firearm; or an employee identification card issued by any
79 branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government,
80 the state, a county, or a municipality; or

81 b. Identification that shows your name and current
82 residence address: current utility bill, bank statement,
83 government check, paycheck, or government document (excluding
84 voter identification card).

85 4. Place the envelope bearing the affidavit into a mailing
86 envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert a copy of your
87 identification in the mailing envelope. Mail, deliver, or have
88 delivered the completed affidavit along with the copy of your
89 identification to your county supervisor of elections. Be sure
90 there is sufficient postage if mailed and that the supervisor's
91 address is correct.

92 5. Alternatively, you may fax or e-mail your completed
93 affidavit and a copy of your identification to the supervisor of
94 elections. If e-mailing, please provide these documents as
95 attachments.

96 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.