

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to vote-by-mail ballots; amending ss.
 3 101.64, 101.65, 101.6921, and 101.6923, F.S.;
 4 requiring the supervisor of elections to enclose a
 5 postage paid mailing envelope with each vote-by-mail
 6 ballot; conforming provisions to changes made by the
 7 act; providing an effective date.

8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
 11 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 101.64, Florida
 12 Statutes, is amended to read:

13 101.64 Delivery of vote-by-mail ballots; envelopes; form.—

14 (1) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
 15 ballot two envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the absent
 16 elector shall enclose his or her marked ballot; and a postage
 17 paid mailing envelope, into which the absent elector shall then
 18 place the secrecy envelope, which shall be addressed to the
 19 supervisor and also bear on the back side a certificate in
 20 substantially the following form:

21
 22 Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before
 23 Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

24
 25 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

51 mail ballot will be counted, it should be completed and returned
52 as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of
53 elections of the county in which your precinct is located no
54 later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. However, if you
55 are an overseas voter casting a ballot in a presidential
56 preference primary or general election, your vote-by-mail ballot
57 must be postmarked or dated no later than the date of the
58 election and received by the supervisor of elections of the
59 county in which you are registered to vote no later than 10 days
60 after the date of the election. Note that the later you return
61 your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any signature
62 deficiencies, which is authorized until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day
63 after the election.

64 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.
65 You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so
66 because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

67 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for
68 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote
69 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one candidate,
70 your vote in that race will not be counted.

71 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy
72 envelope.

73 5. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed mailing
74 envelope which is addressed to the supervisor.

75 6. Seal the mailing envelope and completely fill out the

76 | Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.

77 | 7. VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-mail ballot
 78 | to be counted, you must sign your name on the line above
 79 | (Voter's Signature). A vote-by-mail ballot will be considered
 80 | illegal and not be counted if the signature on the voter's
 81 | certificate does not match the signature on record. The
 82 | signature on file at the time the supervisor of elections in the
 83 | county in which your precinct is located receives your vote-by-
 84 | mail ballot is the signature that will be used to verify your
 85 | signature on the voter's certificate. If you need to update your
 86 | signature for this election, send your signature update on a
 87 | voter registration application to your supervisor of elections
 88 | so that it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is
 89 | received.

90 | 8. VERY IMPORTANT. If you are an overseas voter, you must
 91 | include the date you signed the Voter's Certificate on the line
 92 | above (Date) or your ballot may not be counted.

93 | 9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed mailing
 94 | envelope. ~~Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed.~~ THE
 95 | COMPLETED MAILING ENVELOPE CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE
 96 | SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR PRECINCT IS
 97 | LOCATED OR DROPPED OFF AT AN AUTHORIZED SECURE DROP BOX,
 98 | AVAILABLE AT EACH EARLY VOTING LOCATION.

99 | 10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to
 100 | accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote

101 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote
 102 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under
 103 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

104 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 101.6921, Florida
 105 Statutes, is amended to read:

106 101.6921 Delivery of special vote-by-mail ballot to
 107 certain first-time voters.—

108 (2) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
 109 ballot three envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the
 110 absent elector will enclose his or her marked ballot; an
 111 envelope containing the Voter's Certificate, into which the
 112 absent elector shall place the secrecy envelope; and a postage
 113 paid mailing envelope, which shall be addressed to the
 114 supervisor and into which the absent elector will place the
 115 envelope containing the Voter's Certificate and a copy of the
 116 required identification.

117 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 101.6923, Florida
 118 Statutes, is amended to read:

119 101.6923 Special vote-by-mail ballot instructions for
 120 certain first-time voters.—

121 (2) A voter covered by this section shall be provided with
 122 printed instructions with his or her vote-by-mail ballot in
 123 substantially the following form:

124
 125 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE MARKING YOUR

126 | BALLOT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE
127 | YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

128 |

129 | 1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail ballot will
130 | be counted, it should be completed and returned as soon as
131 | possible so that it can reach the supervisor of elections of the
132 | county in which your precinct is located no later than 7 p.m. on
133 | the date of the election. However, if you are an overseas voter
134 | casting a ballot in a presidential preference primary or general
135 | election, your vote-by-mail ballot must be postmarked or dated
136 | no later than the date of the election and received by the
137 | supervisor of elections of the county in which you are
138 | registered to vote no later than 10 days after the date of the
139 | election.

140 | 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.
141 | You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so
142 | because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

143 | 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for
144 | a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote
145 | for One" candidate and you vote for more than one, your vote in
146 | that race will not be counted.

147 | 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy
148 | envelope and seal the envelope.

149 | 5. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed envelope
150 | bearing the Voter's Certificate. Seal the envelope and

151 completely fill out the Voter's Certificate on the back of the
152 envelope.

153 a. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's
154 Signature).

155 b. If you are an overseas voter, you must include the date
156 you signed the Voter's Certificate on the line above (Date) or
157 your ballot may not be counted.

158 c. A vote-by-mail ballot will be considered illegal and
159 will not be counted if the signature on the Voter's Certificate
160 does not match the signature on record. The signature on file at
161 the start of the canvass of the vote-by-mail ballots is the
162 signature that will be used to verify your signature on the
163 Voter's Certificate. If you need to update your signature for
164 this election, send your signature update on a voter
165 registration application to your supervisor of elections so that
166 it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is received.

167 6. Unless you meet one of the exemptions in Item 7., you
168 must make a copy of one of the following forms of
169 identification:

170 a. Identification which must include your name and
171 photograph: United States passport; debit or credit card;
172 military identification; student identification; retirement
173 center identification; neighborhood association identification;
174 public assistance identification; veteran health identification
175 card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

176 a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm; or an
177 employee identification card issued by any branch, department,
178 agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a
179 county, or a municipality; or

180 b. Identification which shows your name and current
181 residence address: current utility bill, bank statement,
182 government check, paycheck, or government document (excluding
183 voter information card).

184 7. The identification requirements of Item 6. do not apply
185 if you meet one of the following requirements:

186 a. You are 65 years of age or older.

187 b. You have a temporary or permanent physical disability.

188 c. You are a member of a uniformed service on active duty
189 who, by reason of such active duty, will be absent from the
190 county on election day.

191 d. You are a member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason
192 of service in the Merchant Marine, will be absent from the
193 county on election day.

194 e. You are the spouse or dependent of a member referred to
195 in paragraph c. or paragraph d. who, by reason of the active
196 duty or service of the member, will be absent from the county on
197 election day.

198 f. You are currently residing outside the United States.

199 8. Place the envelope bearing the Voter's Certificate into
200 the mailing envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert a copy

201 of your identification in the mailing envelope. DO NOT PUT YOUR
202 IDENTIFICATION INSIDE THE SECRECY ENVELOPE WITH THE BALLOT OR
203 INSIDE THE ENVELOPE WHICH BEARS THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE OR YOUR
204 BALLOT WILL NOT COUNT.

205 9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed mailing
206 envelope. ~~Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed.~~

207 10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to
208 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote
209 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote
210 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under
211 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

212 Section 5. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.