

By Senator Ingoglia

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to elections; amending s. 101.5605,  
3       F.S.; prohibiting the Department of State from  
4       approving certain voting systems; amending s.  
5       101.5607, F.S.; requiring the department to make  
6       certain information and materials available to the  
7       public on its website within a certain timeframe;  
8       deleting a provision specifying applicability of a  
9       public records exemption to certain software on file  
10      with the department; creating s. 101.592, F.S.;  
11      requiring the county canvassing board to conduct a  
12      manual count in certain precincts before certification  
13      of certain elections; providing for the random  
14      selection of precincts subject to the manual count by  
15      the Secretary of State; requiring the Secretary of  
16      State to inform the county canvassing board of the  
17      randomly selected precincts in advance of the  
18      election; prohibiting the disclosure of the randomly  
19      selected precincts before election day; specifying  
20      requirements for the manual count; requiring specified  
21      public access and notice to the manual count;  
22      specifying applicable procedures for the manual count;  
23      providing duties of the county canvassing board in  
24      conducting the manual count; requiring the Secretary  
25      of State to order a countywide manual recount if  
26      certain conditions are met; providing applicability;  
27      authorizing the Secretary of State to make certain  
28      referrals to the Office of Election Crimes and  
29      Security for investigation; amending s. 101.62, F.S.;

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30 providing limitations on a voter's eligibility for  
31 requesting a vote-by-mail ballot; providing that a  
32 vote-by-mail ballot request is limited to a single  
33 election; requiring a person making a vote-by-mail  
34 ballot request to disclose the absent voter's basis  
35 for voting by mail; conforming provisions to changes  
36 made by the act; amending s. 101.64, F.S.; revising  
37 the voter's certificate on the vote-by-mail mailing  
38 envelope to conform to changes made by the act;  
39 amending s. 101.65, F.S.; revising instructions to  
40 absent electors to conform to changes made by the act;  
41 amending s. 101.657, F.S.; revising the timeframe  
42 during which early voting must be provided by the  
43 supervisor of elections; amending s. 101.662, F.S.;  
44 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
45 amending s. 101.69, F.S.; deleting authorization for  
46 the placement of secure ballot intake stations at  
47 early voting sites and sites that would otherwise  
48 qualify as an early voting site; conforming provisions  
49 to changes made by the act; amending s. 101.6921,  
50 F.S.; revising the voter's certificate on the mailing  
51 envelope of special vote-by-mail ballots to certain  
52 first-time voters to conform to changes made by the  
53 act; amending ss. 101.6103 and 101.694, F.S.;  
54 conforming cross-references; rescinding vote-by-mail  
55 ballot requests for certain elections as of a  
56 specified date; requiring a supervisor of elections to  
57 provide certain notice to voters with pending vote-by-  
58 mail ballot requests; specifying requirements for such

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59 notice; providing applicability; requiring the  
60 department to initiate emergency rulemaking for a  
61 specified purpose within a certain timeframe;  
62 specifying the duration of any emergency rules  
63 adopted; providing an effective date.  
64

65 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
66

67 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 101.5605,  
68 Florida Statutes, to read:

69 101.5605 Examination and approval of equipment.—

70 (5) The Department of State may not approve any voting  
71 system that:

72 (a) Incorporates hardware or software designed, produced,  
73 owned, or licensed by an entity that is owned, operated, or  
74 majority-controlled by a company outside of the United States or  
75 a domestic company registered in another country, including a  
76 domesticated foreign corporation, or by a person who is not a  
77 United States citizen;

78 (b) Is produced, in whole or in part, including software,  
79 hardware, tabulating equipment, printers, and any other  
80 accessories, in a foreign country; or

81 (c) Uses software that is not open-source and not available  
82 for inspection by the public.

83 Section 2. Section 101.5607, Florida Statutes, is amended  
84 to read:

85 101.5607 Department of State to maintain voting system  
86 information; prepare software.—

87 (1) (a) Copies of the program codes and the user and

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88 operator manuals and copies of all software and any other  
89 information, specifications, or documentation required by the  
90 Department of State relating to an approved electronic or  
91 electromechanical voting system and its equipment must be filed  
92 with the Department of State by the supervisor of elections at  
93 the time of purchase or implementation. Any such information or  
94 materials that are not on file with and approved by the  
95 Department of State, including any updated or modified  
96 materials, may not be used in an election. Such information and  
97 materials must be made available to the public on the Department  
98 of State's website at least 3 months before an election in which  
99 it will be used.

100 (b) Within 24 hours after the completion of any logic and  
101 accuracy test conducted pursuant to s. 101.5612, the supervisor  
102 of elections shall send by certified mail to the Department of  
103 State a copy of the tabulation program which was used in the  
104 logic and accuracy testing.

105 (c) The Department of State may, at any time, review the  
106 voting system of any county to ensure compliance with the  
107 Electronic Voting Systems Act.

108 ~~(d) Section 119.071(1)(f) applies to all software on file~~  
109 ~~with the Department of State.~~

110 (2) (a) The Department of State may develop software for use  
111 with an electronic or electromechanical voting system. The  
112 standards and examination procedures developed for software  
113 apply to all software developed by the Department of State.

114 (b) Software prepared, and software filed with the  
115 Department of State pursuant to paragraph (1) (a), ~~by the~~  
116 ~~Department of State~~ is a public record pursuant to chapter 119

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117 and shall be provided at the actual cost of duplication.

118 Section 3. Section 101.592, Florida Statutes, is created to  
119 read:

120 101.592 Manual count.-

121 (1) (a) Before the county canvassing board certifies the  
122 results of an election with state or federal races, the county  
123 canvassing board shall conduct a manual count of the votes of  
124 two precincts per county which are randomly selected by the  
125 Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall inform the  
126 county canvassing board of the randomly selected precincts at  
127 least 15 days before the election.

128 (b) The precincts randomly selected by the Secretary of  
129 State may not be publicly announced before the close of polls on  
130 election day.

131 (2) (a) A manual count consists of a count of all election  
132 day marksense ballots or of digital images of those ballots by  
133 an individual. A manual count must include a tally of the  
134 election day votes cast across every race and ballot measure  
135 that appear on the ballot in each of the two precincts randomly  
136 selected by the Secretary of State.

137 (b) The manual count must be open to the public, and the  
138 county canvassing board shall post a notice of the manual count,  
139 including the date, time, and place of such count, in four  
140 conspicuous places in the county and on the homepage of the  
141 supervisor of election's website.

142 (3) A vote for a candidate or ballot measure must be  
143 counted if there is a clear indication on the ballot that the  
144 voter has made a definite choice consistent with the parameters  
145 set forth in s. 102.166(4) and the specific rules adopted by the

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146 department pursuant to that section.

147 (4) Procedures for a manual count must adhere to the  
148 procedures set forth in s. 102.166(5) and the rules adopted by  
149 the department pursuant to that section.

150 (5) (a) The canvassing board for each county must compare  
151 the results of the manual count in each randomly selected  
152 precinct to the precinct vote totals provided for in s. 102.071.  
153 The results of the manual count must be reported to the  
154 Secretary of State no later than noon on the third day after any  
155 primary election and no later than noon on the fifth day after  
156 any general or other election.

157 (b) If the difference in the vote counts between the manual  
158 count and the precinct vote total provided for in s. 102.071 for  
159 a race or ballot measure is enough to change the outcome of a  
160 race or ballot measure when extrapolated across all precincts  
161 where the race or ballot measure appeared on the ballot, the  
162 Secretary of State must order a countywide manual recount of all  
163 election-day, vote-by-mail, early voting, provisional, and  
164 overseas ballots cast in the county for the race or ballot  
165 measure. The results of the manual recount must be the certified  
166 election results. This paragraph does not apply to a race or  
167 ballot measure where the Secretary of State, county canvassing  
168 board, or the local board responsible for certifying the  
169 election is required to order a recount pursuant to s. 102.141.

170 (6) Upon receipt of the results of a county's manual count,  
171 the Secretary of State may refer any suspected irregularities or  
172 violations of law associated with the voting systems and  
173 election procedures in a county to the Office of Election Crimes  
174 and Security for further investigation.

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175 Section 4. Section 101.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
176 read:

177 101.62 Request for vote-by-mail ballots.—

178 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—

179 (a) A qualified absent voter may vote by mail if, on  
180 election day and during early in-person voting, the absent voter  
181 expects to be:

182 1. Absent from the county of his or her residence;

183 2. Unable to appear personally at the early voting site or  
184 polling place of the precinct in which he or she is a qualified  
185 voter because of illness or physical disability or duties  
186 related to the primary care of one or more individuals who are  
187 ill or physically disabled, or because he or she will be or is a  
188 patient in a hospital;

189 3. A resident or patient of a United States Department of  
190 Veterans Affairs medical facility; or

191 4. Absent from his or her legal residence because he or she  
192 is confined in jail, provided that he or she is qualified to  
193 vote in the precinct of his or her residence.

194 (b) The eligibility requirements to vote by mail set forth  
195 in paragraph (a) do not apply to voters entitled to vote by mail  
196 under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

197 (2) REQUEST.—

198 (a) The supervisor shall accept a request for a vote-by-  
199 mail ballot only from an absent a voter or, if directly  
200 instructed by the absent voter, a member of the absent voter's  
201 immediate family or the absent voter's legal guardian. A request  
202 may be made in person, in writing, by telephone, or through the  
203 supervisor's website. The department shall prescribe by rule ~~by~~

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204 ~~October 1, 2023,~~ a uniform statewide application to make a  
205 written request for a vote-by-mail ballot which includes fields  
206 for all information required in this subsection. An absent voter  
207 must submit a separate request for a vote-by-mail ballot for  
208 each election. For purposes of this requirement, a primary  
209 election and the subsequent general election are separate  
210 elections ~~One request is deemed sufficient to receive a vote-by-~~  
211 ~~mail ballot for all elections through the end of the calendar~~  
212 ~~year of the next regularly scheduled general election, unless~~  
213 ~~the voter or the voter's designee indicates at the time the~~  
214 ~~request is made the elections within such period for which the~~  
215 ~~voter desires to receive a vote-by-mail ballot.~~ The supervisor  
216 must cancel a request for a vote-by-mail ballot when any first-  
217 class mail or nonforwardable mail sent by the supervisor to the  
218 voter is returned as undeliverable. If the absent voter requests  
219 a vote-by-mail ballot thereafter, the absent voter must provide  
220 or confirm his or her current residential address.

221 (b) The supervisor may accept a request for a vote-by-mail  
222 ballot to be mailed to an absent a voter's address on file in  
223 the Florida Voter Registration System from the absent voter, or,  
224 if directly instructed by the absent voter, a member of the  
225 absent voter's immediate family or the absent voter's legal  
226 guardian. If an in-person or a telephonic request is made, the  
227 voter must provide the absent voter's Florida driver license  
228 number, the absent voter's Florida identification card number,  
229 or the last four digits of the absent voter's social security  
230 number, whichever may be verified in the supervisor's records,  
231 and the absent voter's basis for voting by mail. If the ballot  
232 is requested to be mailed to an address other than the absent

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233 voter's address on file in the Florida Voter Registration  
234 System, the request must be made in writing. A written request  
235 must be signed by the absent voter and include the absent  
236 voter's Florida driver license number, the absent voter's  
237 Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of  
238 the absent voter's social security number, and the absent  
239 voter's basis for voting by mail. However, an absent uniformed  
240 services voter or an overseas voter seeking a vote-by-mail  
241 ballot is not required to submit a signed, written request for a  
242 vote-by-mail ballot that is being mailed to an address other  
243 than the absent voter's address on file in the Florida Voter  
244 Registration System. The person making the request must  
245 disclose:

- 246 1. The name of the absent voter for whom the ballot is  
247 requested.
- 248 2. The absent voter's address.
- 249 3. The absent voter's date of birth.
- 250 4. The absent voter's Florida driver license number, the  
251 absent voter's Florida identification card number, or the last  
252 four digits of the absent voter's social security number,  
253 whichever may be verified in the supervisor's records. If the  
254 absent voter's registration record does not already include the  
255 absent voter's Florida driver license number or Florida  
256 identification card number or the last four digits of the absent  
257 voter's social security number, the number provided must be  
258 recorded in the absent voter's registration record.
- 259 5. The absent voter's basis for voting by mail.
- 260 6. The requester's name.
- 261 ~~7.6.~~ The requester's address.

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262       ~~8.7.~~ The requester's driver license number, the requester's  
263 identification card number, or the last four digits of the  
264 requester's social security number, if available.

265       ~~9.8.~~ The requester's relationship to the absent voter.

266       ~~10.9.~~ The requester's signature (written requests only).

267       (c) Upon receiving a request for a vote-by-mail ballot from  
268 an absent voter, the supervisor of elections shall notify the  
269 voter of the free access system that has been designated by the  
270 department for determining the status of his or her vote-by-mail  
271 ballot.

272       (d) For purposes of this section, the term "immediate  
273 family" refers to the following, as applicable:

274       1. The absent voter's spouse, parent, child, grandparent,  
275 grandchild, or sibling, or the parent, child, grandparent,  
276 grandchild, or sibling of the absent voter's spouse.

277       2. The designee's spouse, parent, child, grandparent,  
278 grandchild, or sibling, or the parent, child, grandparent,  
279 grandchild, or sibling of the designee's spouse.

280       ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ ACCESS TO VOTE-BY-MAIL REQUEST INFORMATION.—For each  
281 request for a vote-by-mail ballot received, the supervisor shall  
282 record the following information: the date the request was made;  
283 the identity of the absent voter's designee making the request,  
284 if any; the Florida driver license number, Florida  
285 identification card number, or last four digits of the social  
286 security number of the absent voter provided with a written  
287 request; the absent voter's basis for voting by mail; the date  
288 the vote-by-mail ballot was delivered to the absent voter or the  
289 absent voter's designee or the date the vote-by-mail ballot was  
290 delivered to the post office or other carrier; the address to

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291 which the ballot was mailed or the identity of the absent  
292 voter's designee to whom the ballot was delivered; the date the  
293 ballot was received by the supervisor; the absence of the absent  
294 voter's signature on the voter's certificate, if applicable;  
295 whether the voter's certificate contains a signature that does  
296 not match the voter's signature in the registration books or  
297 precinct register; and such other information he or she may deem  
298 necessary. This information must be provided in electronic  
299 format as provided by division rule. The information must be  
300 updated and made available no later than 8 a.m. of each day,  
301 including weekends, beginning 60 days before the primary until  
302 15 days after the general election and shall be  
303 contemporaneously provided to the division. This information is  
304 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and shall be made  
305 available to or reproduced only for the voter requesting the  
306 ballot, a canvassing board, an election official, a political  
307 party or official thereof, a candidate who has filed  
308 qualification papers and is opposed in an upcoming election, and  
309 registered political committees for political purposes only.

310 (4)~~(3)~~ DELIVERY OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS.—

311 (a) No later than 45 days before each presidential  
312 preference primary election, primary election, and general  
313 election, the supervisor of elections shall send a vote-by-mail  
314 ballot as provided in subparagraph (d)2. to each absent  
315 uniformed services voter and to each overseas voter who has  
316 requested a vote-by-mail ballot.

317 (b) The supervisor shall mail a vote-by-mail ballot to each  
318 absent qualified voter, other than those listed in paragraph

319 (a), who has requested such a ballot, between the 40th and 33rd

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320 days before the presidential preference primary election,  
321 primary election, and general election.

322 (c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a) or  
323 paragraph (b), the supervisor shall mail vote-by-mail ballots  
324 within 2 business days after receiving a request for such a  
325 ballot, but no later than the 10th day before election day. The  
326 deadline to submit a request for a ballot to be mailed is 5 p.m.  
327 local time on the 12th day before an upcoming election.

328 (d) Upon a request for a vote-by-mail ballot, the  
329 supervisor shall provide a vote-by-mail ballot to each absent  
330 voter by whom a request for that ballot has been made, by one of  
331 the following means:

332 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the  
333 absent voter's current mailing address on file with the  
334 supervisor or any other address the voter specifies in the  
335 request. The envelopes must be prominently marked "Do Not  
336 Forward."

337 2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine  
338 transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas  
339 voters. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter  
340 may designate in the vote-by-mail ballot request the preferred  
341 method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the  
342 method of transmission, the vote-by-mail ballot must be mailed.

343 3. By personal delivery to the absent voter after vote-by-  
344 mail ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day  
345 upon presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043.

346 4. By delivery to the absent voter's designee after vote-  
347 by-mail ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election  
348 day. An absent ~~Any~~ voter may designate in writing a person to

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349 pick up the ballot for the voter; however, the person designated  
350 may not pick up more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election,  
351 other than the designee's own ballot, except that additional  
352 ballots may be picked up for members of the designee's immediate  
353 family. The designee shall provide to the supervisor the written  
354 authorization by the absent voter and a picture identification  
355 of the designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee  
356 shall state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by  
357 the voter to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the  
358 absent voter is a member of the designee's immediate family and,  
359 if so, the relationship. The department shall prescribe the form  
360 of the affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the  
361 designee is authorized to pick up the ballot and that the  
362 signature of the absent voter on the written authorization  
363 matches the signature of the voter on file, the supervisor must  
364 give the ballot to that designee for delivery to the absent  
365 voter.

366 5. Except as provided in s. 101.655, the supervisor may not  
367 deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to an absent a voter or a voter's  
368 designee pursuant to subparagraph 3. or subparagraph 4.,  
369 respectively, during the mandatory early voting period and up to  
370 7 p.m. on election day, unless there is an emergency, to the  
371 extent that the absent voter will be unable to go to a  
372 designated early voting site in his or her county or to his or  
373 her assigned polling place on election day. If a vote-by-mail  
374 ballot is delivered, the absent voter or his or her designee  
375 must execute an affidavit affirming to the facts which allow for  
376 delivery of the vote-by-mail ballot. The department shall adopt  
377 a rule providing for the form of the affidavit.

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378        (5)~~(4)~~ SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—If the department is unable  
 379 to certify candidates for an election in time to comply with  
 380 paragraph (4) (a) ~~(3) (a)~~, the Department of State is authorized  
 381 to prescribe rules for a ballot to be sent to absent uniformed  
 382 services voters and overseas voters.

383        (6)~~(5)~~ MATERIALS.—Only the materials necessary to vote by  
 384 mail may be mailed or delivered with any vote-by-mail ballot.

385        (7)~~(6)~~ PROHIBITION.—Except as expressly authorized for  
 386 voters having a disability under s. 101.662, for overseas voters  
 387 under s. 101.697, or for local referenda under ss. 101.6102 and  
 388 101.6103, a county, municipality, or state agency may not send a  
 389 vote-by-mail ballot to a voter unless the voter has requested a  
 390 vote-by-mail ballot in the manner authorized under this section.

391        Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 392 101.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

393        101.64 Delivery of vote-by-mail ballots; envelopes; form.—

394        (1) (a) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail  
 395 ballot two envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the absent  
 396 elector shall enclose his or her marked ballot; and a mailing  
 397 envelope, into which the absent elector shall then place the  
 398 secrecy envelope, which must ~~shall~~ be addressed to the  
 399 supervisor and also bear on the back side a certificate in  
 400 substantially the following form:

401

402                Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before  
 403                Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

404

405                                VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

406                I, . . . ., do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified



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436 101.65 Instructions to absent electors.—The supervisor  
437 shall enclose with each vote-by-mail ballot separate printed  
438 instructions in substantially the following form; however, where  
439 the instructions appear in capitalized text, the text of the  
440 printed instructions must be in bold font:

441

442 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

443 BEFORE MARKING BALLOT.

444

445 1. VERY IMPORTANT. In order to ensure that your vote-by-  
446 mail ballot will be counted, it should be completed and returned  
447 as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of  
448 elections of the county in which your precinct is located no  
449 later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. However, if you  
450 are an overseas voter casting a ballot in a presidential  
451 preference primary or general election, your vote-by-mail ballot  
452 must be postmarked or dated no later than the date of the  
453 election and received by the supervisor of elections of the  
454 county in which you are registered to vote no later than 10 days  
455 after the date of the election. Note that the later you return  
456 your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any signature  
457 deficiencies, which is authorized until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day  
458 after the election.

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

462 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for  
463 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote  
464 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one candidate,

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465 your vote in that race will not be counted.

466 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy  
467 envelope.

468 5. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed mailing  
469 envelope which is addressed to the supervisor.

470 6. Seal the mailing envelope and completely fill out the  
471 Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.

472 7. VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-mail ballot to  
473 be counted, you must sign your name on the line above (Voter's  
474 Signature). A vote-by-mail ballot will be considered illegal and  
475 not be counted if the signature on the voter's certificate does  
476 not match the signature on record. The signature on file at the  
477 time the supervisor of elections in the county in which your  
478 precinct is located receives your vote-by-mail ballot is the  
479 signature that will be used to verify your signature on the  
480 voter's certificate. If you need to update your signature for  
481 this election, send your signature update on a voter  
482 registration application to your supervisor of elections so that  
483 it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is received.

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

487 9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed mailing  
488 envelope. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed. THE  
489 COMPLETED MAILING ENVELOPE CAN BE DELIVERED TO AN AUTHORIZED  
490 SECURE BALLOT INTAKE STATION LOCATED AT THE OFFICE OF THE  
491 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR PRECINCT IS  
492 LOCATED ~~OR DROPPED OFF AT AN AUTHORIZED SECURE BALLOT INTAKE~~  
493 ~~STATION, AVAILABLE AT EACH EARLY VOTING LOCATION.~~

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494 10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to  
495 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote  
496 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote  
497 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under  
498 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

499 Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
500 101.657, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

501 101.657 Early voting.—

502 (1)

503 (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th ~~10th~~ day before an  
504 election that contains state or federal races and end on the 2nd  
505 ~~3rd~~ day before the election, and must ~~shall~~ be provided for no  
506 less than 8 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site  
507 during the applicable period. ~~In addition, early voting may be~~  
508 ~~offered at the discretion of the supervisor of elections on the~~  
509 ~~15th, 14th, 13th, 12th, 11th, or 2nd day before an election that~~  
510 ~~contains state or federal races for at least 8 hours per day,~~  
511 ~~but not more than 12 hours per day.~~ The supervisor of elections  
512 may provide early voting for elections that are not held in  
513 conjunction with a state or federal election. However, the  
514 supervisor has the discretion to determine the hours of  
515 operation of early voting sites in those elections.

516 Section 8. Section 101.662, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
517 read:

518 101.662 Accessibility of vote-by-mail ballots.—It is the  
519 intent of the Legislature that voting by vote-by-mail ballot be  
520 by methods that are fully accessible to all absent voters  
521 eligible to vote by mail, including voters having a disability.  
522 The Department of State shall work with the supervisors of

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523 elections and the disability community to develop and implement  
524 procedures and technologies, as possible, which will include  
525 procedures for providing vote-by-mail ballots, upon request, in  
526 alternative formats that will allow all eligible absent voters  
527 to cast a secret, independent, and verifiable vote-by-mail  
528 ballot without the assistance of another person.

529 Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 101.69, Florida  
530 Statutes, is amended to read:

531 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.—

532 (2) (a) The supervisor shall allow an absent elector who has  
533 received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted  
534 vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail  
535 envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot  
536 intake station. A secure ballot intake station must ~~stations~~  
537 ~~shall~~ be placed at the main office of the supervisor and may be  
538 placed, ~~at each permanent branch office of the supervisor which~~  
539 ~~meets the criteria set forth in s. 101.657(1) (a) for branch~~  
540 ~~offices used for early voting and which is open for at least the~~  
541 ~~minimum number of hours prescribed by s. 98.015(4), and at each~~  
542 ~~early voting site. Secure ballot intake stations may also be~~  
543 ~~placed at any other site that would otherwise qualify as an~~  
544 ~~early voting site under s. 101.657(1). Secure ballot intake~~  
545 ~~stations must be geographically located so as to provide all~~  
546 ~~voters in the county with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot,~~  
547 ~~insofar as is practicable. Except for secure ballot intake~~  
548 ~~stations at an office of the supervisor, a secure ballot intake~~  
549 ~~station may only be used during the county's early voting hours~~  
550 ~~of operation and must be monitored in person by an employee of~~  
551 ~~the supervisor's office.~~ A secure ballot intake station at an

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552 ~~office of the supervisor~~ must be continuously monitored in  
553 person by an employee of the supervisor's office when the secure  
554 ballot intake station is accessible for deposit of ballots.

555 ~~(b)1. A supervisor shall designate each secure ballot~~  
556 ~~intake station location at least 30 days before an election. The~~  
557 ~~supervisor shall provide the address of each secure ballot~~  
558 ~~intake station location to the division at least 30 days before~~  
559 ~~an election. After a secure ballot intake station location has~~  
560 ~~been designated, it may not be moved or changed except as~~  
561 ~~approved by the division to correct a violation of this~~  
562 ~~subsection.~~

563 ~~(c)1. On each day of early voting, all secure ballot intake~~  
564 ~~stations must be emptied at the end of early voting hours and~~  
565 ~~all ballots retrieved from the secure ballot intake stations~~  
566 ~~must be returned to the supervisor's office.~~

567 ~~2. For secure ballot intake stations located at an office~~  
568 ~~of the supervisor, All ballots must be retrieved before the~~  
569 ~~secure ballot intake station is no longer monitored by an~~  
570 ~~employee of the supervisor.~~

571 ~~2.3.~~ Employees of the supervisor must comply with  
572 procedures for the chain of custody of ballots as required by s.  
573 101.015(4).

574 Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 101.6921, Florida  
575 Statutes, is amended to read:

576 101.6921 Delivery of special vote-by-mail ballot to certain  
577 first-time voters.-

578 (3) The Voter's Certificate shall be in substantially the  
579 following form:

580

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581 Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before Marking Ballot  
 582 and Completing Voter's Certificate.

583

584 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

585

586 I, ....., do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified  
 587 and registered voter of .... County, Florida, and that I have  
 588 not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I  
 589 understand that if I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in  
 590 connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more  
 591 than once in an election, I can be convicted of a felony of the  
 592 third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to  
 593 5 years. I also understand that failure to sign this certificate  
 594 will invalidate my ballot.

595 I further swear or affirm that I am eligible to vote by  
 596 mail pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
 597 Voting Act or because on election day or during in-person early  
 598 voting, I expect to be or am (one or more may apply):

- 599 1. Absent from my county of residence;
- 600 2. Unable to appear personally at my early voting site or  
 601 my precinct's polling place or early voting location because of  
 602 illness or physical disability or duties related to the primary  
 603 care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically  
 604 disabled, or because I will be or am a patient in a hospital;
- 605 3. A resident or patient of a United States Department of  
 606 Veterans Affairs medical facility; or
- 607 4. Absent from my legal residence because I am confined in  
 608 jail and am qualified to vote.

609 I understand that unless I meet one of the exemptions

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610 below, I must provide a copy of a current and valid  
 611 identification as provided in the instruction sheet to the  
 612 supervisor of elections in order for my ballot to count.

613 I further certify that I am exempt from the requirements to  
 614 furnish a copy of a current and valid identification with my  
 615 ballot because of one or more of the following (check all that  
 616 apply):

617  I am 65 years of age or older.

618  I have a permanent or temporary physical disability.

619  I am a member of a uniformed service on active duty who,  
 620 by reason of such active duty, will be absent from the county on  
 621 election day.

622  I am a member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason of  
 623 service in the Merchant Marine, will be absent from the county  
 624 on election day.

625  I am the spouse or dependent of a member of the uniformed  
 626 service or Merchant Marine who, by reason of the active duty or  
 627 service of the member, will be absent from the county on  
 628 election day.

629  I am currently residing outside the United States.

630  
 631 ... (Date) ... ...Voter's Signature...

632  
 633 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 101.6103, Florida  
 634 Statutes, is amended to read:

635 101.6103 Mail ballot election procedure.—

636 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the  
 637 supervisor of elections shall mail all official ballots with a  
 638 secrecy envelope, a return mailing envelope, and instructions

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639 sufficient to describe the voting process to each elector  
640 entitled to vote in the election within the timeframes specified  
641 in s. 101.62(4) ~~s. 101.62(3)~~. All such ballots must be mailed by  
642 first-class mail. Ballots must be addressed to each elector at  
643 the address appearing in the registration records and placed in  
644 an envelope which is prominently marked "Do Not Forward."

645 Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 101.694, Florida  
646 Statutes, is amended to read:

647 101.694 Mailing of ballots upon receipt of federal postcard  
648 application.—

649 (1) Upon receipt of a federal postcard application for a  
650 vote-by-mail ballot executed by a person whose registration is  
651 in order or whose application is sufficient to register or  
652 update the registration of that person, the supervisor shall  
653 send the ballot in accordance with s. 101.62(4) ~~s. 101.62(3)~~.

654 Section 13. All vote-by-mail ballot requests for the August  
655 2024 statewide primary election and any election occurring  
656 thereafter are canceled as of the effective date of this act.  
657 Within 60 days after the effective date of this act, a county  
658 supervisor of elections shall contact and provide notice by  
659 mail, telephone, and e-mail to each voter in the supervisor's  
660 county who made a request for a vote-by-mail ballot for the  
661 August 2024 statewide primary election and any election  
662 occurring thereafter, informing the voter of the new  
663 requirements for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot and the  
664 expanded in-person early voting opportunities provided for under  
665 this act.

666 Section 14. The amendments made by this act do not apply to  
667 any election occurring before the statewide primary election to

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668 be held in August 2024.

669       Section 15. Within 30 days after this act becoming a law,  
670 the Department of State shall initiate emergency rulemaking for  
671 the purpose of revising the uniform statewide application for  
672 written requests for vote-by-mail ballots to conform to the  
673 amendments made to s. 101.62, Florida Statutes, by this act. All  
674 conditions to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54,  
675 Florida Statutes, are deemed met. Emergency rules adopted under  
676 this section are exempt from s. 120.54(4)(c), Florida Statutes,  
677 and shall remain in effect until replaced by rules adopted under  
678 the nonemergency rulemaking procedures of chapter 120, Florida  
679 Statutes, which must occur no later than July 1, 2025.

680       Section 16. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.