

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. HB 1381 (2025)

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

FAILED TO ADOPT \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

WITHDRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

OTHER

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Government Operations  
Subcommittee

Representative Bracy Davis offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 20.10, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:**

20.10 Department of State.—There is created a Department  
of State.

(1) The head of the Department of State is the Secretary  
of State. The Secretary of State shall be elected at the  
statewide general election at which the Governor, Lieutenant  
Governor, and Cabinet officers are elected as provided in s. 5,  
Art. IV of the State Constitution, and shall serve a term of 4  
years beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in

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January of the year following such election ~~appointed by the~~  
~~Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and shall serve~~  
~~at the pleasure of the Governor.~~ The Secretary of State shall  
perform the functions conferred by the State Constitution upon  
the custodian of state records.

**Section 2. Subsection (4) is added to section 20.32,  
Florida Statutes, to read:**

20.32 Florida Commission on Offender Review.—

(4) (a) For the purpose of assisting a person who has been  
disqualified from voting based on a felony conviction, other  
than a conviction for murder or a felony sexual offense, in  
determining whether he or she has met the requirements under s.  
98.0751 to have his or her voting rights restored pursuant to s.  
4, Art. VI of the State Constitution, the commission shall  
develop and maintain a database that contains for each such  
person all of the following information:

1. His or her name and any other personal identifying  
information.

2. The remaining length of any term of supervision,  
including, but not limited to, probation, community control, or  
parole, ordered by a court as part of his or her sentence.

3. The remaining amount of any restitution he or she owes  
to a victim as ordered by a court as part of his or her  
sentence.

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41       4. The remaining amount due of any fines or fees that were  
42 initially ordered by a court as part of his or her sentence or  
43 as a condition of any form of supervision, including, but not  
44 limited to, probation, community control, or parole.

45       5. The completion status of any other term ordered by a  
46 court as a part of his or her sentence.

47       6. Any other information needed to determine whether he or  
48 she has met the requirements for restoration of voting rights  
49 under s. 98.0751.

50       (b) The Department of State, the Department of  
51 Corrections, the clerks of the circuit court, the county  
52 comptrollers, and the Board of Executive Clemency shall provide  
53 to the commission on a monthly basis any information required  
54 under paragraph (a).

55       (c) The Department of Management Services, acting through  
56 the Florida Digital Service, shall provide any technical  
57 assistance necessary for the commission to develop and maintain  
58 the database. The Department of Management Services may adopt  
59 rules governing the provision of such assistance.

60       (d) By July 1, 2027, the commission shall make the  
61 database available on a public website. The commission must  
62 update the database monthly with the information received from  
63 each governmental entity under paragraph (b). The commission  
64 shall publish on the website clear instructions that a person  
65 who has been disqualified from voting based on a felony

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conviction, other than for murder or a felony sexual offense,  
may follow to have his or her voting rights restored and to  
register to vote.

(e) By July 1, 2025, the commission shall provide a  
comprehensive plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which includes  
all of the following:

1. The governmental entities from which and the methods by  
which the commission shall collect, centralize, analyze, and  
secure the information required to be included in the database.

2. A description of any infrastructure and services,  
including, but not limited to, software, hardware, and  
information technology services, which may be necessary to  
create and maintain the database.

3. The anticipated number of additional employees  
necessary for:

a. The commission to develop and maintain the database.

b. A governmental entity to provide the information  
required under paragraph (b).

c. The Florida Digital Service to provide the assistance  
required under paragraph (c).

4. The anticipated initial cost to develop the database;  
the annual cost to maintain the database; and the annual  
appropriation required to fund the anticipated costs incurred by

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90 the commission, each governmental entity, and the Florida  
91 Digital Service.

92 5. Any legal authority necessary for the commission to  
93 develop and maintain the database.

94 6. Draft legislation to implement the comprehensive plan.

95 (f) Notwithstanding any other law, a person who registers  
96 to vote or who votes in reasonable reliance on information  
97 contained in the database indicating that his or her voting  
98 rights have been restored pursuant to s. 4, Art. VI of the State  
99 Constitution has an affirmative right to register and to vote  
100 and may not be charged with a violation of any criminal law of  
101 this state related to fraudulently voting or registering to  
102 vote.

103 (g) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this  
104 subsection.

105 **Section 3. Section 97.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
106 **read:**

107 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except  
108 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

109 (1) "Absent elector" means any registered and qualified  
110 voter who casts a vote-by-mail ballot.

111 (2) "Absent uniformed services voter" means:

112 (a) A member of a uniformed service on active duty who, by  
113 reason of such active duty, is absent from the place of  
114 residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote;

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115 (b) A member of the merchant marine who, by reason of  
116 service in the merchant marine, is absent from the place of  
117 residence where the member is otherwise qualified to vote; or

118 (c) A spouse or dependent of a member referred to in  
119 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) who, by reason of the active duty  
120 or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence  
121 where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote.

122 (3) "Address of legal residence" means the legal  
123 residential address of the elector and includes all information  
124 necessary to differentiate one residence from another,  
125 including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment,  
126 suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier.

127 (4) "Alternative formats" has the meaning ascribed in the  
128 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, 42  
129 U.S.C. ss. 12101 et seq., including specifically the technical  
130 assistance manuals promulgated thereunder, as amended.

131 (5) "Automatic tabulating equipment" means an apparatus  
132 that automatically examines, counts, and records votes.

133 (6) "Ballot" or "official ballot" when used in reference  
134 to:

135 (a) "Electronic or electromechanical devices" means a  
136 ballot that is voted by the process of electronically  
137 designating, including by touchscreen, or marking with a marking  
138 device for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data  
139 processing equipment.

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(b) "Marksense ballots" means that printed sheet of paper, used in conjunction with an electronic or electromechanical vote tabulation voting system, containing the names of candidates, or a statement of proposed constitutional amendments or other questions or propositions submitted to the electorate at any election, on which sheet of paper an elector casts his or her vote.

(7) "Candidate" means any person to whom any one or more of the following applies:

(a) Any person who seeks to qualify for nomination or election by means of the petitioning process.

(b) Any person who seeks to qualify for election as a write-in candidate.

(c) Any person who receives contributions or makes expenditures, or gives his or her consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bringing about his or her nomination or election to, or retention in, public office.

(d) Any person who appoints a treasurer and designates a primary depository.

(e) Any person who files qualification papers and subscribes to a candidate's oath as required by law.

However, this definition does not include any candidate for a political party executive committee.

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165       (8) "Database and institute" means the Florida Voting and  
166 Elections Database and Institute.

167       (9) "Department" means the Department of State.

168       (10)~~(9)~~ "Division" means the Division of Elections of the  
169 Department of State.

170       (11)~~(10)~~ "Early voting" means casting a ballot prior to  
171 election day at a location designated by the supervisor of  
172 elections and depositing the voted ballot in the tabulation  
173 system.

174       (12)~~(11)~~ "Early voting area" means the area designated by  
175 the supervisor of elections at an early voting site at which  
176 early voting activities occur, including, but not limited to,  
177 lines of voters waiting to be processed, the area where voters  
178 check in and are processed, and the area where voters cast their  
179 ballots.

180       (13)~~(12)~~ "Early voting site" means those locations  
181 specified in s. 101.657 and the building in which early voting  
182 occurs.

183       (14)~~(13)~~ "Election" means any primary election, special  
184 primary election, special election, general election, or  
185 presidential preference primary election.

186       (15)~~(14)~~ "Election board" means the clerk and inspectors  
187 appointed to conduct an election.

188       (16)~~(15)~~ "Election costs" shall include, but not be  
189 limited to, expenditures for all paper supplies such as



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190 envelopes, instructions to voters, affidavits, reports, ballot  
191 cards, ballot booklets for vote-by-mail voters, postage, notices  
192 to voters; advertisements for registration book closings,  
193 testing of voting equipment, sample ballots, and polling places;  
194 forms used to qualify candidates; polling site rental and  
195 equipment delivery and pickup; data processing time and  
196 supplies; election records retention; and labor costs, including  
197 those costs uniquely associated with vote-by-mail ballot  
198 preparation, poll workers, and election night canvass.

199 (17) "Election policy or practice" includes any  
200 qualification to be an elector, prerequisite to voting, or  
201 method of election, as well as any law, statute, ordinance,  
202 resolution, charter code or provision, regulation, rule, policy,  
203 practice, procedure, standard, or action, with respect to voting  
204 or the administration or schedule of elections.

205 (18) ~~(16)~~ "Elector" is synonymous with the word "voter" or  
206 "qualified elector or voter," except where the word is used to  
207 describe presidential electors.

208 (19) "Federal Voting Rights Act" means the federal Voting  
209 Rights Act of 1965, 52 U.S.C. s. 10301 et seq., as amended.

210 (20) "FLVRA Commission" means the Florida Voting Rights  
211 Act Commission.

212 (21) ~~(17)~~ "General election" means an election held on the  
213 first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-  
214 numbered years, for the purpose of filling national, state,

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215 county, and district offices and for voting on constitutional  
216 amendments not otherwise provided for by law.

217 (22) "Government enforcement action" means any denial of  
218 administrative or judicial preclearance by the state or the  
219 Federal Government; pending litigation filed by a state or  
220 federal entity; or final judgment or adjudication, consent  
221 decree, or other similar formal action.

222 (23) "Legislative body" means a commission, council,  
223 school board, or other similar body, by whatever name known, of  
224 local government.

225 (24) ~~(18)~~ "Lists of registered electors" means names and  
226 associated information of registered electors maintained by the  
227 department in the statewide voter registration system or  
228 generated or derived from the statewide voter registration  
229 system. Lists may be produced in printed or electronic format.

230 (25) "Local government" means any county, municipality,  
231 school district, special district, supervisor of elections or  
232 other governmental entity that administers elections, or any  
233 other political subdivision in this state in which elections are  
234 conducted.

235 (26) ~~(19)~~ "Member of the Merchant Marine" means an  
236 individual, other than a member of a uniformed service or an  
237 individual employed, enrolled, or maintained on the Great Lakes  
238 for the inland waterways, who is:

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(a) Employed as an officer or crew member of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States, a vessel owned by the United States, or a vessel of foreign-flag registry under charter to or control of the United States; or

(b) Enrolled with the United States for employment or training for employment, or maintained by the United States for emergency relief service, as an officer or crew member of such vessel.

(27) "Method of election" means the method by which candidates are elected to a governmental body of a local government, and includes any at-large, district-based, share-based, or other method of election, as well as any districting or redistricting plan used to elect candidates to the governmental body. Methods of election include:

(a) "At-large method of election" which means a method of election in which candidates are voted on by all voters in the local government's jurisdiction, voters are allowed or required to cast as many votes as there are seats to fill, and voters may not cast more than one vote for a given candidate.

(b) "District-based method of election" which means a method of election in which the local government is divided into districts, each district is represented by a single representative, and a candidate is voted on only by voters residing in his or her district.

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263 (c) "Other method of election" which means a method of  
264 election other than an at-large, district-based, or share-based  
265 method of election, or any combination of methods of election.

266 (d) "Share-based method of election" means a method of  
267 election in which more than one candidate is to be elected and  
268 different groups of voters may each elect their preferred  
269 candidates to the seats to fill based on their relative share of  
270 the votes cast. Share-based methods of election include, but are  
271 not limited to, the single transferable vote, cumulative voting,  
272 limited voting, and party-list or state-list systems.

273 (28)(20) "Minor political party" is any group as specified  
274 in s. 103.095 which on January 1 preceding a primary election  
275 does not have registered as members 5 percent of the total  
276 registered electors of the state.

277 (29)(21) "Newspaper of general circulation" means a  
278 newspaper printed in the language most commonly spoken in the  
279 area within which it circulates and which is readily available  
280 for purchase by all inhabitants in the area of circulation, but  
281 does not include a newspaper intended primarily for members of a  
282 particular professional or occupational group, a newspaper the  
283 primary function of which is to carry legal notices, or a  
284 newspaper that is given away primarily to distribute  
285 advertising.

286 (30)(22) "Nominal value" means having a retail value of  
287 \$10 or less.

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288        ~~(31)(23)~~ "Nonpartisan office" means an office for which a  
289 candidate is prohibited from campaigning or qualifying for  
290 election or retention in office based on party affiliation.

291        ~~(32)(24)~~ "Office that serves persons with disabilities"  
292 means any state office that takes applications either in person  
293 or over the telephone from persons with disabilities for any  
294 program, service, or benefit primarily related to their  
295 disabilities.

296        ~~(33)~~ "Organization" means a person other than an  
297 individual.

298        ~~(34)(25)~~ "Overseas voter" means:

299        (a) An absent uniformed services voter who, by reason of  
300 active duty or service, is absent from the United States on the  
301 date of the election involved;

302        (b) A person who resides outside the United States and is  
303 qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was  
304 domiciled before leaving the United States; or

305        (c) A person who resides outside the United States and,  
306 but for such residence, would be qualified to vote in the last  
307 place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the  
308 United States.

309        ~~(35)(26)~~ "Overvote" means that the elector marks or  
310 designates more names than there are persons to be elected to an  
311 office or designates more than one answer to a ballot question,  
312 and the tabulator records no vote for the office or question.

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313        ~~(36)(27)~~ "Persons with disabilities" means individuals who  
314 have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits  
315 one or more major life activities.

316        ~~(37)(28)~~ "Petition circulator" means an entity or  
317 individual who collects signatures for compensation for the  
318 purpose of qualifying a proposed constitutional amendment for  
319 ballot placement.

320        ~~(38)(29)~~ "Polling place" is the building which contains  
321 the polling room where ballots are cast.

322        ~~(39)(30)~~ "Polling room" means the actual room in which  
323 ballots are cast on election day and during early voting.

324        ~~(40)(31)~~ "Primary election" means an election held  
325 preceding the general election for the purpose of nominating a  
326 party nominee to be voted for in the general election to fill a  
327 national, state, county, or district office.

328        (41) "Protected class" means a class of citizens who are  
329 members of a race, color, or language minority group, as  
330 referenced in the federal Voting Rights Act.

331        ~~(42)(32)~~ "Provisional ballot" means a conditional ballot,  
332 the validity of which is determined by the canvassing board.

333        ~~(43)(33)~~ "Public assistance" means assistance provided  
334 through the food assistance program under the federal  
335 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; the Medicaid program;  
336 the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and  
337 Children; and the Temporary Cash Assistance Program.

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338        ~~(44)(34)~~ "Public office" means any federal, state, county,  
339        municipal, school, or other district office or position which is  
340        filled by vote of the electors.

341        ~~(45)(35)~~ "Qualifying educational institution" means any  
342        public or private educational institution receiving state  
343        financial assistance which has, as its primary mission, the  
344        provision of education or training to students who are at least  
345        18 years of age, provided such institution has more than 200  
346        students enrolled in classes with the institution and provided  
347        that the recognized student government organization has  
348        requested this designation in writing and has filed the request  
349        with the office of the supervisor of elections in the county in  
350        which the institution is located.

351        ~~(46)~~ "Racially polarized voting" means voting in which the  
352        candidate or electoral choice preferred by protected class  
353        members diverges from the candidate or electoral choice  
354        preferred by voters who are not protected class members.

355        ~~(47)(36)~~ "Special election" is a special election called  
356        for the purpose of voting on a party nominee to fill a vacancy  
357        in the national, state, county, or district office.

358        ~~(48)(37)~~ "Special primary election" is a special  
359        nomination election designated by the Governor, called for the  
360        purpose of nominating a party nominee to be voted on in a  
361        general or special election.

362        ~~(49)(38)~~ "Supervisor" means the supervisor of elections.

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~~(50)(39)~~ "Tactile input device" means a device that provides information to a voting system by means of a voter touching the device, such as a keyboard, and that complies with the requirements of s. 101.56062(1)(k) and (l).

~~(51)(40)~~ "Third-party registration organization" means any person, entity, or organization soliciting or collecting voter registration applications. A third-party voter registration organization does not include:

(a) A person who seeks only to register to vote or collect voter registration applications from that person's spouse, child, or parent; or

(b) A person engaged in registering to vote or collecting voter registration applications as an employee or agent of the division, supervisor of elections, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, or a voter registration agency.

~~(52)(41)~~ "Undervote" means that the elector does not properly designate any choice for an office or ballot question, and the tabulator records no vote for the office or question.

~~(53)(42)~~ "Uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(54) "Vote" or "voting" includes any action necessary to cast a ballot and make such ballot effective in any election or



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primary election, which actions include, but are not limited to, registering to vote, requesting a vote-by-mail ballot, and any other action required by law as a prerequisite to casting a ballot and having such ballot counted, canvassed, or certified properly and included in the appropriate totals of votes cast with respect to candidates for election or nomination and to referendum questions.

(55)-(43)- "Voter interface device" means any device that communicates voting instructions and ballot information to a voter and allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and issues. A voter interface device may not be used to tabulate votes. Any vote tabulation must be based upon a subsequent scan of the marked marksense ballot or the voter-verifiable paper output after the voter interface device process has been completed.

(56)-(44)- "Voter registration agency" means any office that provides public assistance, any office that serves persons with disabilities, any center for independent living, or any public library.

(57)-(45)- "Voter registration official" means any supervisor of elections or individual authorized by the Secretary of State to accept voter registration applications and execute updates to the statewide voter registration system.

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411 ~~(58)(46)~~ "Voting booth" or "booth" means that booth or  
412 enclosure wherein an elector casts his or her ballot for  
413 tabulation by an electronic or electromechanical device.

414 ~~(59)(47)~~ "Voting system" means a method of casting and  
415 processing votes that functions wholly or partly by use of  
416 electromechanical or electronic apparatus or by use of marksense  
417 ballots and includes, but is not limited to, the procedures for  
418 casting and processing votes and the programs, operating  
419 manuals, supplies, printouts, and other software necessary for  
420 the system's operation.

421  
422 Terms used in this code which are not defined in this section  
423 but are used in the federal Voting Rights Act and interpreted in  
424 relevant case law, including, but not limited to, "political  
425 process" and "prerequisite to voting," must be construed in a  
426 manner consistent with such usage and interpretation.

427 **Section 4.** Section 97.022, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

428 **Section 5.** Section 97.0291, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

429 **Section 6. Section 97.0556, Florida Statutes, is created**  
430 **to read:**

431 97.0556 Same-day voter registration.—A person who meets  
432 the qualifications specified in s. 97.041 to register to vote  
433 and who provides the information required under s. 97.052 for  
434 the uniform statewide voter registration application may

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435 register at an early voting site or at his or her polling place  
436 and immediately thereafter cast a ballot.

437 **Section 7. Section 97.057, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
438 **read:**

439 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway  
440 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

441 (1)(a) Each of the following serves as an application ~~The~~  
442 ~~Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall provide~~  
443 ~~the opportunity to preregister to vote, register to vote, or to~~  
444 ~~update a voter registration record when submitted to the~~  
445 ~~Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to each~~  
446 ~~individual who comes to an office of that department to:~~

447 1.(a) An application for or renewal of ~~Apply for or renew~~  
448 ~~a driver license;~~

449 2.(b) An application for or renewal of ~~Apply for or renew~~  
450 ~~an identification card pursuant to chapter 322; or~~

451 3.(c) An application for a change of an address on an  
452 ~~existing driver license or identification card.~~

453 (b) Unless the applicant declines to register or  
454 preregister to vote, he or she is deemed to have consented to  
455 the use of the signature from his or her driver license or  
456 identification card application for voter registration purposes.

457 (2) An application for a driver license or an  
458 identification card must include a voter registration component.

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459 The voter registration component must be approved by the  
460 Department of State and must include all of the following:

461 (a) The minimum amount of information necessary to prevent  
462 duplicate voter registrations and to preserve the ability of the  
463 department and supervisors of elections to assess the  
464 eligibility of the applicant and administer voter registration  
465 and other provisions of this code.

466 (b) A statement setting forth voter eligibility  
467 requirements.

468 (c) An explanation that the applicant is consenting to the  
469 use of his or her signature from the applicant's driver license  
470 or identification card application for voter registration  
471 purposes. By consenting to the use of his or her signature, the  
472 applicant is deemed to have subscribed to the oaths required by  
473 s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051 and to  
474 have sworn and affirmed that the voter registration information  
475 contained in the application is true under penalty for false  
476 swearing pursuant to s. 104.011.

477 (d) An option that allows the applicant to choose or  
478 update a party affiliation. An applicant who is initially  
479 registering to vote and does not exercise such option must be  
480 sent a notice by the supervisor of elections in accordance with  
481 s. 97.053(5)(b).

482 (e) An option that allows the applicant to decline to  
483 register to vote or preregister to vote. The Department of

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Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall note any such declination in its records and forward the declination to the Department of State. A declination may be used only for voter registration purposes and is confidential and exempt from public records requirements as provided in s. 97.0585.

(3) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall:

(a) Develop a voter registration component for applications which meets the requirements set forth in subsection (2).

(b) Electronically transmit the voter registration component of an applicant's driver license or identification card application to the Department of State within 24 hours after receipt. Upon receipt of the voter registration component, the Department of State shall provide the information to the supervisor of the county in which the applicant is registering or preregistering to vote or updating his or her voter registration record.

~~(2) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall:~~

~~(a) Notify each individual, orally or in writing, that:~~

~~1. Information gathered for the completion of a driver license or identification card application, renewal, or change of address can be automatically transferred to a voter registration application;~~

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~~2. If additional information and a signature are provided, the voter registration application will be completed and sent to the proper election authority;~~

~~3. Information provided can also be used to update a voter registration record, except that party affiliation will not be changed unless the individual designates a change in party affiliation and separately consents to such change in writing;~~

~~4. All declinations will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes; and~~

~~5. The particular driver license office in which the person applies to register to vote or updates a voter registration record will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.~~

~~(b) Require a driver license examiner to inquire orally or, if the applicant is hearing impaired, inquire in writing whether the applicant wishes to register to vote or update a voter registration record during the completion of a driver license or identification card application, renewal, or change of address.~~

~~1. If the applicant chooses to register to vote or to update a voter registration record:~~

~~a. All applicable information received by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the course of filling out the forms necessary under subsection (1) must be transferred to a voter registration application.~~

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~~b. The additional necessary information must be obtained by the driver license examiner and must not duplicate any information already obtained while completing the forms required under subsection (1).~~

~~e. A voter registration application with all of the applicant's voter registration information required to establish the applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041 must be presented to the applicant to review and verify the voter registration information received and provide an electronic signature affirming the accuracy of the information provided.~~

~~d. The voter registration application may not be used to change the party affiliation of the applicant unless the applicant designates a change in party affiliation and provides a separate signature consenting to the party affiliation change.~~

~~e. After verifying the voter registration information and providing his or her electronic signature, the applicant must be provided with a printed receipt that includes such information and documents any change in party affiliation.~~

~~2. If the applicant declines to register to vote, update the applicant's voter registration record, or change the applicant's address by either orally declining or by failing to sign the voter registration application, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must note such declination on its records and shall forward the declination to the statewide voter registration system.~~

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~~(3) For the purpose of this section, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, with the approval of the Department of State, shall prescribe:~~

~~(a) A voter registration application that is the same in content, format, and size as the uniform statewide voter registration application prescribed under s. 97.052; and~~

~~(b) A form that will inform applicants under subsection (1) of the information contained in paragraph (2) (a).~~

~~(4) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must electronically transmit completed voter registration applications within 24 hours after receipt to the statewide voter registration system. Completed paper voter registration applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall be forwarded within 5 days after receipt to the supervisor of the county where the office that processed or received that application is located.~~

~~(5) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must send, with each driver license renewal extension application authorized pursuant to s. 322.18(8), a uniform statewide voter registration application, the voter registration application prescribed under paragraph (3) (a), or a voter registration application developed especially for the purposes of this subsection by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, with the approval of the Department of State, which must meet the requirements of s. 97.052.~~



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584        ~~(4)-(6)~~ A person providing voter registration services for  
585 a driver license office may not:

586        (a) ~~Make any change to an applicant's party affiliation~~  
587 ~~unless the applicant provides a separate signature consenting to~~  
588 ~~the party affiliation change or discuss or~~ Seek to influence an  
589 applicant's political preference or party registration;

590        (b) Display any political preference or party allegiance;

591        (c) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action  
592 the purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant  
593 from registering to vote; or

594        (d) Disclose any applicant's voter registration  
595 information except as needed for the administration of voter  
596 registration.

597        ~~(5)-(7)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
598 shall collect data determined necessary by the Department of  
599 State for program evaluation and reporting to the Election  
600 Assistance Commission pursuant to federal law.

601        ~~(6)-(8)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
602 shall ~~must~~ ensure that all voter registration services provided  
603 by driver license offices are in compliance with the federal  
604 Voting Rights Act ~~of 1965~~.

605        ~~(7)-(9)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
606 shall retain complete records of voter registration information  
607 received, processed, and submitted to the Department of State  
608 ~~statewide voter registration system~~ by the Department of Highway

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Bill No. HB 1381 (2025)

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609 Safety and Motor Vehicles. The retention of such ~~These~~ records  
610 ~~is shall be~~ for the explicit purpose of supporting audit and  
611 accounting controls established to ensure accurate and complete  
612 electronic transmission of records between the Department of  
613 State ~~statewide voter registration system~~ and the Department of  
614 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

615 ~~(8)-(10)~~ The Department of State shall provide the  
616 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with an  
617 electronic database of street addresses valid for use as the  
618 address of legal residence as required in s. 97.053(5). The  
619 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall compare  
620 the address provided by the applicant against the database of  
621 valid street addresses. If the address provided by the applicant  
622 does not match a valid street address in the database, the  
623 applicant will be asked to verify the address provided. The  
624 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may ~~shall~~ not  
625 reject any application for voter registration for which a valid  
626 match cannot be made.

627 ~~(9)-(11)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
628 Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the Department of  
629 State to match information in the statewide voter registration  
630 system with information in the database of the Department of  
631 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the extent required to  
632 verify the accuracy of the driver license number, Florida  
633 identification number, or last four digits of the social

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security number provided on applications for voter registration as required in s. 97.053.

~~(10)-(12)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security as required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to verify the last four digits of the social security number provided in applications for voter registration as required in s. 97.053.

~~(11)-(13)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall ~~must~~ assist the Department of State in regularly identifying changes in residence address on the driver license or identification card of a voter. The Department of State shall ~~must~~ report each such change to the appropriate supervisor of elections who must change the voter's registration records in accordance with s. 98.065(4).

~~(14) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall ensure that information technology processes and updates do not alter an applicant's party affiliation without the written consent of the applicant.~~

**Section 8. Section 97.0575, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

97.0575 Third-party voter registration organizations.—

(1) Before engaging in any voter registration activities, a third-party voter registration organization must register and

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658 provide to the division, in an electronic format, the following  
659 information:

660 (a) The names of the officers of the organization and the  
661 name and permanent address of the organization.

662 (b) The name and address of the organization's registered  
663 agent in the state.

664 (c) The names, permanent addresses, and temporary  
665 addresses, if any, of each registration agent registering  
666 persons to vote in this state on behalf of the organization.  
667 This paragraph does not apply to persons who only solicit  
668 applications and do not collect or handle voter registration  
669 applications.

670 ~~(d) Beginning November 6, 2024, the specific general~~  
671 ~~election cycle for which the third party voter registration~~  
672 ~~organization is registering persons to vote.~~

673 ~~(e) An affirmation that each person collecting or handling~~  
674 ~~voter registration applications on behalf of the third party~~  
675 ~~voter registration organization has not been convicted of a~~  
676 ~~felony violation of the Election Code, a felony violation of an~~  
677 ~~offense specified in s. 825.103, a felony offense specified in~~  
678 ~~s. 98.0751(2)(b) or (c), or a felony offense specified in~~  
679 ~~chapter 817, chapter 831, or chapter 837. A third-party voter~~  
680 ~~registration organization is liable for a fine in the amount of~~  
681 ~~\$50,000 for each such person who has been convicted of a felony~~  
682 ~~violation of the Election Code, a felony violation of an offense~~

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~~specified in s. 825.103, a felony offense specified in s.  
98.0751(2) (b) or (c), or a felony offense specified in chapter  
817, chapter 831, or chapter 837 who is collecting or handling  
voter registration applications on behalf of the third party  
voter registration organization.~~

~~(f) An affirmation that each person collecting or handling  
voter registration applications on behalf of the third party  
voter registration organization is a citizen of the United  
States of America. A third party voter registration organization  
is liable for a fine in the amount of \$50,000 for each such  
person who is not a citizen and is collecting or handling voter  
registration applications on behalf of the third party voter  
registration organization.~~

~~(2) Beginning November 6, 2024, the registration of a  
third party voter registration organization automatically  
expires at the conclusion of the specific general election cycle  
for which the third party voter registration organization is  
registered.~~

~~(3) The division or the supervisor of elections shall make  
voter registration forms available to third-party voter  
registration organizations. All such forms must contain  
information identifying the organization to which the forms are  
provided. The division shall maintain a database of all third-  
party voter registration organizations and the voter  
registration forms assigned to the third-party voter~~

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708 registration organization. Each supervisor of elections shall  
709 provide to the division information on voter registration forms  
710 assigned to and received from third-party voter registration  
711 organizations. The information must be provided in a format and  
712 at times as required by the division by rule. The division shall  
713 update information on third-party voter registrations daily and  
714 make the information publicly available.

715 ~~(4) A third-party voter registration organization that~~  
716 ~~collects voter registration applications shall provide a receipt~~  
717 ~~to an applicant upon accepting possession of his or her~~  
718 ~~application. The division shall adopt by rule a uniform format~~  
719 ~~for the receipt by October 1, 2023. The format must include, but~~  
720 ~~need not be limited to, the name of the applicant, the date the~~  
721 ~~application is received, the name of the third-party voter~~  
722 ~~registration organization, the name of the registration agent,~~  
723 ~~the applicant's political party affiliation, and the county in~~  
724 ~~which the applicant resides.~~

725 (3) (a) ~~(5) (a)~~ A third-party voter registration organization  
726 that collects voter registration applications serves as a  
727 fiduciary to the applicant and shall ensure that any voter  
728 registration application entrusted to the organization,  
729 irrespective of party affiliation, race, ethnicity, or gender,  
730 is promptly delivered to the division or the supervisor of  
731 elections ~~in the county in which the applicant resides~~ within 14  
732 ~~10~~ days after the application is completed by the applicant, but

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not after registration closes for the next ensuing election. If a voter registration application collected by any third-party voter registration organization is not promptly delivered to the division or supervisor of elections ~~in the county in which the applicant resides~~, the third-party voter registration organization is liable for the following fines:

1. A fine in the amount of \$50 ~~per each day late, up to \$2,500~~, for each application received by the division or the supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides more than 10 days after the applicant delivered the completed voter registration application to the third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf. A fine in the amount of \$250 ~~\$2,500~~ for each application received if the third-party voter registration organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

2. A fine in the amount of \$100 ~~per each day late, up to \$5,000~~, for each application collected by a third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, before book closing for any given election for federal or state office and received by the division or the supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides after the book-closing deadline for such election. A fine in the amount of \$500 ~~\$5,000~~ for each application received

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if the third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

3. A fine in the amount of \$500 for each application collected by a third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, which is not submitted to the division or supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides. A fine in the amount of \$1,000 ~~\$5,000~~ for any application not submitted if the third-party voter registration organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

The aggregate fine which may be assessed pursuant to this paragraph against a third-party voter registration organization, including affiliate organizations, for violations committed in a calendar year is \$1,000 ~~\$250,000~~.

(b) A showing by the third-party voter registration organization that the failure to deliver the voter registration application within the required timeframe is based upon force majeure or impossibility of performance shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this subsection. The secretary may waive the fines described in this subsection upon a showing that the failure to deliver the voter registration application promptly is based upon force majeure or impossibility of performance.



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~~(6) If a person collecting voter registration applications on behalf of a third-party voter registration organization alters the voter registration application of any other person, without the other person's knowledge and consent, in violation of s. 104.012(4) and is subsequently convicted of such offense, the applicable third-party voter registration organization is liable for a fine in the amount of \$5,000 for each application altered.~~

~~(7) If a person collecting voter registration applications on behalf of a third-party voter registration organization copies a voter's application or retains a voter's personal information, such as the voter's Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, social security number, or signature, for any reason other than to provide such application or information to the third-party voter registration organization in compliance with this section, the person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.~~

(4)~~(8)~~ If the Secretary of State reasonably believes that a person has committed a violation of this section, the secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General for enforcement. The Attorney General may institute a civil action for a violation of this section or to prevent a violation of this section. An action for relief may include a permanent or

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temporary injunction, a restraining order, or any other appropriate order.

~~(9) The division shall adopt by rule a form to elicit specific information concerning the facts and circumstances from a person who claims to have been registered to vote by a third-party voter registration organization but who does not appear as an active voter on the voter registration rolls. The division shall also adopt rules to ensure the integrity of the registration process, including controls to ensure that all completed forms are promptly delivered to the division or a supervisor in the county in which the applicant resides.~~

~~(5) (10)~~ The date on which an applicant signs a voter registration application is presumed to be the date on which the third-party voter registration organization received or collected the voter registration application.

~~(11) A third-party voter registration organization may not mail or otherwise provide a voter registration application upon which any information about an applicant has been filled in before it is provided to the applicant. A third-party voter registration organization that violates this section is liable for a fine in the amount of \$50 for each such application.~~

~~(12) The requirements of this section are retroactive for any third-party voter registration organization registered with the department as of July 1, 2023, and must be complied with within 90 days after the department provides notice to the~~

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~~third party voter registration organization of the requirements contained in this section. Failure of the third party voter registration organization to comply with the requirements within 90 days after receipt of the notice shall automatically result in the cancellation of the third party voter registration organization's registration.~~

**Section 9. Part III of chapter 97, Florida Statutes, consisting of sections 97.21-97.28, Florida Statutes, is created and entitled "Florida Voting Rights Act."**

**Section 10. Section 97.21, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

97.21 Prohibitions on voter suppression and vote dilution.—

(1) PROHIBITING VOTER SUPPRESSION.—

(a) A local government, state agency, or state official may not implement, impose, or enforce any election policy or practice, or take any other action or fail to take any action, which results in, will result in, or is intended to result in any of the following:

1. A material disparity in voter participation, access to voting opportunities, or the opportunity or ability to participate in the political process between protected class members and other members of the electorate.

2. Based on the totality of the circumstances, an impairment of the equal opportunity or ability of protected

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class members to participate in any stage of the political process.

(b) It is not a violation of paragraph (a) if a local government, state agency, or state official demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that:

1. The election policy or practice is necessary to significantly further an important and particularized governmental interest; and

2. There is no alternative election policy or practice that results in a smaller disparity between protected class members and other members of the electorate.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), a violation always exists under paragraph (a) if:

1. The local government, state agency, or state official takes action intended to result in a material disparity; or

2. The material disparity results from:

a. The closure, relocation, or consolidation of, or failure to provide, one or more polling places, early voting sites, or secure ballot intake stations; or the reassignment of voters to precincts or polling places or of precincts to polling places;

b. The local government's selection of or change to the time or date of an election;

c. The local government conducting elections on dates that do not align with federal or state elections;

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d. The date the local government selects for a special election, and there exists an alternate date in a reasonable timeframe in which the disparity would be materially less significant; or

e. The failure to schedule a special election in a reasonable timeframe, allowing a vacancy in an office where protected class members are generally able to elect candidates of their choice.

(2) PROHIBITING VOTE DILUTION.—

(a) A local government may not employ an at-large method of election, a district-based method of election, a share-based method of election, or other method of election for any office which has the effect, will likely have the effect, or is motivated in part by the intent of diluting the vote of protected class members.

(b) To establish a violation under paragraph (a), it must be established that:

1.a. Elections in the local government exhibit racially polarized voting resulting in an impairment of the equal opportunity or ability of protected class members to nominate or elect candidates of their choice; or

b. Based on the totality of the circumstances, the equal opportunity or ability of protected class members to nominate or elect candidates of their choice is impaired; and

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2. Another method of election or changes to the existing method of election which could be constitutionally adopted or ordered under s. 97.28 would likely mitigate the impairment. For the purpose of satisfying such requirement, it is not necessary for the total number or share of protected class members to exceed any numerical threshold in any district or in the local government as a whole.

(3) GUIDELINES AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EVALUATING VOTER SUPPRESSION AND VOTE DILUTION.—

(a)1. To evaluate the totality of circumstances under subparagraph (1)(a)2. or sub-subparagraph (2)(b)1.b., the following factors may be relevant:

a. The history of discrimination;

b. The extent to which the protected class members have been elected to office;

c. The use of any election policy or practice that may enhance the dilutive effective of a method of election in the local government.

d. The extent to which protected class members or candidates experienced any history of unequal access to election-administration or campaign finance processes that determine which candidates will receive access to the ballot or receive financial or other support in a given election for an office of the local government;

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928 e. The extent to which protected class members have  
929 historically made expenditures as defined in s. 106.011 at lower  
930 rates than other voters;

931 f. The extent to which protected class members vote at  
932 lower rates than other voters;

933 g. The extent to which protected class members are  
934 disadvantaged or otherwise bear the effects of public or private  
935 discrimination in areas that may hinder their ability to  
936 participate effectively in any stage of the political process,  
937 such as education, employment, health, criminal justice,  
938 housing, transportation, land use, or environmental protection;

939 h. The use of overt or subtle racial appeals in political  
940 campaigns by governmental officials or in connection with the  
941 adoption or maintenance of the election policy or practice;

942 i. The extent to which candidates face hostility or  
943 barriers while campaigning due to their membership in a  
944 protected class;

945 j The lack of responsiveness by elected officials to the  
946 particular needs of protected class members or a community of  
947 protected class members;

948 k. Whether the election policy or practice was designed to  
949 advance, and does materially advance, a valid and substantial  
950 state interest; and

951 l. Other factors deemed relevant.

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952       2. A set number or combination of the factors in  
953 subparagraph 1. are not required to determine that a violation  
954 occurred.

955       3. Evidence of these factors is most probative if it  
956 relates to the local government in which the alleged violation  
957 occurred, but still holds probative value if it relates to the  
958 geographic region in which the local government is located or to  
959 this state.

960       (b) To determine whether elections in the local government  
961 exhibit racially polarized voting under sub-subparagraph  
962 (2) (b) 1.a.:

963       1. Racially polarized voting must be assessed based on  
964 relevant election results, which may include, but are not  
965 limited to, elections for offices of the local government;  
966 elections held in the local government for other offices, such  
967 as state or federal offices; ballot measures; and other  
968 electoral choices that bear on the rights and privileges of the  
969 protected class.

970       a. A set number or combination of elections may not be  
971 required to establish the existence of racially polarized  
972 voting.

973       b. Evidence of nonpolarized voting in election for offices  
974 outside the local government may not preclude a finding of  
975 racially polarized voting based on elections for offices of the  
976 local government.



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977 c. Nonstatistical or nonquantitative evidence may not  
978 preclude a finding of racially polarized voting based on  
979 statistical or quantitative evidence.

980 d. Low turnout or registration rates among protected class  
981 members may not preclude a finding of racially polarized voting.

982 2. Racially polarized voting may be assessed based only on  
983 the combined electoral preferences of members of a protected  
984 class or classes. There is no requirement that the electoral  
985 preferences of each protected class or any subgroup within a  
986 protected class be separately polarized from those of other  
987 voters.

988 3. The causes of or reasons for racially polarized voting,  
989 including partisan explanations or discriminatory intent, are  
990 not relevant.

991 (c)1. If evaluating whether a violation of subsection (1)  
992 or subsection (2) is present, the following circumstances are  
993 never relevant to such a violation:

994 a. The total number or share of protected class members on  
995 whom the election policy or practice does not impose a material  
996 burden.

997 b. The degree to which the election policy or practice has  
998 a long pedigree or was in widespread use at some earlier date.

999 c. The use of an identical or similar election policy or  
1000 practice in other jurisdictions.

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1001 d. The availability of forms of voting unimpacted by the  
1002 election policy or practice.

1003 2. A state interest in preventing voter fraud or  
1004 bolstering voter confidence in the integrity of elections is not  
1005 relevant to an evaluation of whether a violation of subsection  
1006 (1) or subsection (2) occurred unless there is substantial  
1007 evidence of a number of instances that criminal activity by  
1008 individual electors has occurred in the local government and the  
1009 connection between the election policy or practice and a state  
1010 interest in preventing voter fraud or bolstering voter  
1011 confidence in the integrity of elections is supported by  
1012 substantial evidence.

1013 3. Evidence concerning the intent of electors, elected  
1014 officials, or public officials to discriminate against protected  
1015 class members is never required under subsections (1) and (2).

1016 4. Whether protected class members typically elect  
1017 candidates of their choice to the governmental body of a local  
1018 government in approximate proportion to their total number or  
1019 share of the population may be relevant under subsection (2).

1020 (4) Before filing an action against a local government  
1021 pursuant to this section, a prospective plaintiff must send, by  
1022 certified mail, return receipt requested, a notification letter  
1023 to the local government asserting that the local government may  
1024 be in violation of the provisions of this act. Such letter must  
1025 be referred to as an "FLVRA notification letter."

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1026        (a) Except as noted in paragraph (e), a party may not file  
1027 an action against a local government pursuant to this section  
1028 earlier than 50 days after sending an FLVRA notification letter  
1029 to the local government.

1030        (b) Before receiving an FLVRA notification letter, or not  
1031 later than 50 days after any FLVRA notification letter is sent  
1032 to a local government, a local government may adopt a resolution  
1033 that must be referred to as the "FLVRA Resolution" and that does  
1034 all of the following:

1035            1. Identifies a potential violation of this section by the  
1036 local government.

1037            2. Identifies a specific remedy to the potential  
1038 violation.

1039            3. Affirms the local government's intent to enact and  
1040 implement a remedy for a potential violation.

1041            4. Sets forth specific measures the local government will  
1042 take to enact and implement the remedy.

1043            5. Provides a schedule for the enactment and  
1044 implementation of the remedy.

1045        (c) Except as noted in paragraph (e), a party that has  
1046 sent an FLVRA notification letter may not file an action  
1047 pursuant to this section earlier than 90 days after the adoption  
1048 of an FLVRA Resolution.

1049        (d) If the remedy identified in an FLVRA Resolution is  
1050 barred by state or local law, or a legislative body of a local

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government lacks authority under state or local law to enact or implement a remedy identified in an FLVRA Resolution within 90 days after the adoption of such resolution, or if the local government is a covered jurisdiction under s. 97.25, the local government may nonetheless enact and implement the remedy identified in such resolution upon approval of the FLVRA Commission, which may provide approval only if it finds that the local government may be in violation of this act, the proposed remedy would address a potential violation, and implementation of the proposed remedy is feasible. The approval of a remedy by the FLVRA Commission does not bar an action to challenge the remedy.

(e) If, pursuant to this subsection, a local government enacts or implements a remedy or the FLVRA Commission approves a proposed remedy, a party that sent an FLVRA notification letter may submit a claim for reimbursement from the local government for the costs associated with producing and sending such notification letter. The party must submit the claim in writing and substantiate the claim with financial documentation, including a detailed invoice for any demography services or analysis of voting patterns in the local government. If a party and local government fail to agree to a reimbursement amount, either the party or local government may file an action for a declaratory judgment for a clarification of rights.

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1075       (f) Notwithstanding this subsection, a party may bring a  
1076 cause of action for a violation of this section under any of the  
1077 following circumstances:

1078       1. The action is commenced within 1 year after the  
1079 adoption of a challenged method of election, ordinance,  
1080 resolution, rule, policy, standard, regulation, procedure, or  
1081 law.

1082       2. The prospect of obtaining relief under this section  
1083 would be futile.

1084       3. Another party has already submitted a notification  
1085 letter under this subsection alleging a substantially similar  
1086 violation and that party is eligible to bring a cause of action  
1087 under this subsection.

1088       4. Following the party's submission of an FLVRA  
1089 notification letter, the local government has adopted an FLVRA  
1090 Resolution that identifies a remedy that would not cure the  
1091 violation identified in the notification letter.

1092       5. The party is seeking preliminary relief with respect to  
1093 an upcoming election in accordance with s. 97.28.

1094       (g) Any local government that receives an FLVRA  
1095 notification letter or adopts an FLVRA Resolution must provide a  
1096 copy to the FLVRA Commission within 1 day after receipt or  
1097 adoption. The FLVRA Commission shall promptly post all FLVRA  
1098 notification letters and FLVRA Resolutions on its website. The  
1099 FLVRA Commission may adopt rules identifying other materials and

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information that must be provided to the FLVRA Commission by local governments, as well as procedures for transmittal of materials and information from local governments to the FLVRA Commission.

(5) A local government may not assert the doctrine of laches as a defense to claims brought under this section. A local government may not assert that plaintiffs have failed to comply with any notice, exhaustion, or other procedural requirements under state law, other than the requirements in this section, as a defense to claims brought under this section.

(6) An individual or entity aggrieved by a violation of this section, the Attorney General, or the FLVRA Commission may file an action alleging a violation of this section to enforce compliance with this section. An entity aggrieved by a violation of this section includes, but is not limited to, any entity whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by a violation of this section or whose mission would be frustrated by a violation of this section, including, but not limited to, an entity that would expend or divest resources to fulfill its mission as a result of such violation or must expend greater resources or efforts to advocate before an elected body that is less responsible to the entity or its members due to the alleged violation. An entity may not be compelled to disclose the identity of any specific member to pursue a claim on behalf of its members. This subsection shall be liberally construed to

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1125 confer standing as broadly as the State Constitution allows.  
1126 Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil  
1127 Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. Members  
1128 of two or more protected classes that are politically cohesive  
1129 in a local government may jointly file an action. In an action  
1130 involving a districting plan, any individual who resides in the  
1131 defendant jurisdiction and is a member of the affected class or  
1132 classes, whether he or she resides in any particular district,  
1133 may challenge the districting plan as a whole.

1134 **Section 11. Section 97.22, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
1135 **read:**

1136 97.22 Florida Voting Rights Act Commission.—

1137 (1) There is created the Florida Voting Rights Act (FLVRA)  
1138 Commission within the Department of State. The FLVRA Commission  
1139 is a separate budget entity, as provided in the General  
1140 Appropriations Act, and shall prepare and submit a budget  
1141 request in accordance with chapter 216. The FLVRA Commission is  
1142 responsible for administering the Florida Voting Rights Act. The  
1143 FLVRA Commission must have its own staff, including management,  
1144 research, and enforcement personnel, and is not subject to  
1145 control, supervision, or direction by the Department of State.

1146 (2) (a) The FLVRA Commission shall be composed of five  
1147 commissioners, each of whom shall serve a staggered 5-year term.  
1148 Commissioners must be compensated for their actual time spent on

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1149 the FLVRA Commission's business at an hourly rate equivalent to  
1150 the rate of an assistant attorney general.

1151 1. A nominating committee shall identify qualified  
1152 candidates to serve as commissioners. The nominating committee  
1153 shall be composed of nominating organizations that are selected  
1154 as follows:

1155 a. Organizations may apply to the Secretary of State to be  
1156 certified as organizational nominators for 5-year terms, after  
1157 which the organizations may be recertified. The Secretary of  
1158 State must certify any organization that applies to be an  
1159 organizational nominator if it meets all of the following  
1160 qualifications:

1161 (I) Has demonstrated commitment to the purposes of this  
1162 act and securing the voting rights of protected class members,  
1163 such as referencing such class members in the organization's  
1164 mission statement, involvement in numerous voting rights cases  
1165 brought in this state on behalf of members of protected classes,  
1166 or advocacy in support of this act.

1167 (II) Is registered as a nonprofit corporation with the  
1168 Secretary of State.

1169 (III) Has been in continuous operation as a nonprofit  
1170 organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or  
1171 as a nonprofit corporation registered with the Secretary of  
1172 State for at least 20 years.



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1173        b. If the Secretary of State fails to timely certify an  
1174 organization that satisfies the qualifications specified in sub-  
1175 subparagraph a. following the organization's application as an  
1176 organizational nominator, the organization may file an action  
1177 against the Secretary of State for a declaratory judgment  
1178 certifying the organization as an organizational nominator.

1179        2. An organizational nominator may be removed for cause by  
1180 a majority vote of all fellow nominators.

1181        3. If there are fewer than 16 organizational nominators  
1182 certified by the Secretary of State, the nominating committee  
1183 must be composed of all such organizational nominators. If there  
1184 are 16 or more organizational nominators certified by the  
1185 Secretary of State, the nominating committee must be composed of  
1186 15 organizational nominators randomly selected from all the  
1187 nominators by lot on an annual basis.

1188        4. The nominating committee shall select its own chair to  
1189 preside over meetings and votes.

1190        (b) Commissioners shall be selected as follows:

1191        1. The nominating committee shall solicit applications to  
1192 serve on the FLVRA Commission from across this state. A  
1193 commissioner must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1194        a. Is a resident of this state.

1195        b. Is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar with at  
1196 least 5 years of legal experience.

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1197 c. Has experience representing or advocating on behalf of  
1198 members of protected classes.

1199 d. Has not served in elected office within the preceding 5  
1200 years.

1201 e. Is not currently serving in any governmental office or  
1202 holding any political party office.

1203 2. The nominating committee shall maintain a qualified  
1204 candidate pool composed of 30 candidates to serve on the FLVRA  
1205 Commission. Individuals may be added to the qualified applicant  
1206 pool only upon a vote of three-fifths of the nominating  
1207 committee.

1208 3. All members of the FLVRA Commission must be randomly  
1209 selected from the qualified candidate pool. Upon the initial  
1210 formation of the FLVRA Commission, five commissioners must be  
1211 selected by lot from the qualified candidate pool and randomly  
1212 assigned to term lengths of 5 years, 4 years, 3 years, 2 years,  
1213 and 1 year. At least 60 days in advance of the conclusion of  
1214 each commissioner's term, a new commissioner must be randomly  
1215 selected by lot from the qualified candidate pool to serve a 5-  
1216 year term upon the conclusion of the commissioner's term. If a  
1217 vacancy occurs, a new commissioner must be randomly selected by  
1218 lot from the qualified candidate pool within 30 days after the  
1219 vacancy occurring to complete the vacated term.

1220 (3) In any action or investigation to enforce this  
1221 section, the FLVRA Commission may subpoena witnesses; administer

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oaths; examine individuals under oath; determine material facts;  
and compel the production of records, books, papers, contracts,  
and other documents in accordance with the Florida Rules of  
Civil Procedure.

(4) The FLVRA Commission may hire any staff and make any  
expenditure necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

(5) The FLVRA Commission may adopt rules to administer and  
enforce this part.

**Section 12. Section 97.23, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
**read:**

97.23 Statewide database and institute.—

(1) The FLVRA Commission shall enter into an agreement  
with one or more postsecondary educational institutions in this  
state to create the Florida Voting and Elections Database and  
Institute, to maintain and administer a central repository of  
elections and voting data available to the public from all local  
governments in this state, and to foster, pursue, and sponsor  
research on existing laws and best practices in voting and  
elections. The parties to that agreement shall enter into a  
memorandum of understanding that includes the process for  
selecting the director of the database and institute.

(2) The database and institute shall provide a center for  
research, training, and information on voting systems and  
election administration. The database and institute may do any  
of the following:

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1247 (a) Conduct noncredit classes and classes for credit.

1248 (b) Organize interdisciplinary groups of scholars to  
1249 research voting and elections in this state.

1250 (c) Conduct seminars involving voting and elections.

1251 (d) Establish a nonpartisan centralized database in order  
1252 to collect, archive, and make publicly available, at no cost,  
1253 accessible data pertaining to elections, voter registration, and  
1254 ballot access in this state.

1255 (e) Assist in the dissemination of election data to the  
1256 public.

1257 (f) Publish books and periodicals on voting and elections  
1258 in this state.

1259 (g) Provide nonpartisan technical assistance to local  
1260 governments, scholars, and the general public seeking to use the  
1261 resources of the database and institute.

1262 (3) The database and institute shall make available, and  
1263 maintain in an electronic format, all relevant election and  
1264 voting data and records for at least the previous 12-year  
1265 period. The data, information, and estimates maintained by the  
1266 database and institute must be posted online and made available  
1267 to the public at no cost. Maps, polling places, and vote-by-mail  
1268 ballot secure intake stations must be made available in a  
1269 geospatial file format. The database and institute shall prepare  
1270 any estimates made under this section by applying the most  
1271 advanced and validated peer-reviewed methodologies available.

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Data and records that must be maintained include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Estimates of the total population, voting age population, and citizen voting age population by racial, color, or language minority group and disability status, broken down by precinct level on a year-by-year basis, for every local government in this state, based on data from the United States Census Bureau or the American Community Survey or data of comparable quality collected by a public office.

(b) Election results at the precinct level for every federal, state, and local election held in every local government in this state.

(c) Contemporaneous voter registration lists, voter history files, polling places, and vote-by-mail secure ballot intake stations for every election in every local government in this state.

(d) Contemporaneous maps or other documentation of the configuration of precincts.

(e) Lists of polling places, including, but not limited to, lists of precincts assigned to each polling place, if applicable.

(f) Adopted district or redistricting plans for every election in every local government in this state.

(g) A current record, updated monthly, of persons eligible to register to vote who have a prior criminal conviction and

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1297 whose eligibility has been restored in compliance with s.  
1298 98.0751.

1299 (h) Any other data that the director of the database and  
1300 institute considers necessary to maintain in furtherance of the  
1301 purposes of the database and institute.

1302 (4) All state agencies and local governments shall timely  
1303 provide the director of the database and institute with any  
1304 information requested by the director. No later than 90 days  
1305 after an election, each local government shall transmit to the  
1306 database and institute copies of all of the following:

1307 (a) Election results at the precinct level.

1308 (b) Contemporaneous voter registration lists.

1309 (c) Voter history files.

1310 (d) Maps, descriptions, and shapefiles for election  
1311 districts.

1312 (e) Lists of polling places, shapefiles, or descriptions  
1313 of the precincts assigned to each polling place.

1314 (f) Any other data as requested by the database and  
1315 institute.

1316 (5) Any state entity identified by the director of the  
1317 database and institute as possessing data, statistics, or other  
1318 information required by the database and institute to carry out  
1319 its duties and responsibilities shall provide such data,  
1320 statistics, or information annually to the database and  
1321 institute at the request of the director.

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1322       (6) If a state agency or local government fails to provide  
1323 any information to the database and institute as required by  
1324 this section, the director of the database and institute, the  
1325 Attorney General, or the FLVRA Commission may file an action to  
1326 enforce compliance with this section. An entity aggrieved by a  
1327 violation of this section includes, but is not limited to, any  
1328 entity whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by this  
1329 section or whose mission would be frustrated by a violation of  
1330 this section, including, but not limited to, an entity that  
1331 would expend or divest resources to fulfill its mission as a  
1332 result of such violation or must expend greater resources or  
1333 efforts to advocate before an elected body that is less  
1334 responsive to the entity or its members due to the alleged  
1335 violation. An entity may not be compelled to disclose the  
1336 identity of any specific member to pursue a claim on behalf of  
1337 its members. This section must be liberally construed to confer  
1338 standing as broadly as the State Constitution allows. Such claim  
1339 may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or  
1340 in the Second Judicial Circuit.

1341       (7) No later than 90 days after the end of each state  
1342 fiscal year, the database and institute shall publish a report  
1343 on the priorities and finances of the database and institute.

1344       (8) The database and institute shall provide nonpartisan  
1345 technical assistance to local governments, researchers, and

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members of the public seeking to use the resources of the  
database.

(9) There is a rebuttable presumption that the data,  
estimates, or other information maintained by the database and  
institute is valid.

**Section 13. Section 97.24, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:**

97.24 Language access.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Limited English proficient individual" means an  
individual who does not speak English as his or her primary  
language and who speaks, reads, or understands the English  
language other than "very well" in accordance with United States  
Census Bureau data or data of comparable quality collected by a  
governmental entity.

(b) "Native American" includes any person recognized by  
the United States Census Bureau or the state as "American  
Indian."

(2) The FLVRA Commission must designate one or more  
languages, other than English, for which assistance in voting  
and elections must be provided in a local government if the  
FLVRA Commission finds that a significant and substantial need  
exists for such assistance.

(3) Based on the best available data, which may include  
information from the United States Census Bureau's American



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Community Survey or data of comparable quality collected by a governmental entity, the FLVRA Commission must find that a significant and substantial need exists if:

(a) More than 2 percent, but no fewer than 200 citizens of voting age, of a local government speak a language other than English and are limited English proficient individuals.

(b) More than 4,000 citizens of voting age of a local government speak a language other than English and are limited English proficient individuals.

(4) In the case of a local government that contains any part of a Native American reservation, if more than 2 percent of the Native American citizens of voting age within the Native American reservation are proficient in a language other than English and are limited English proficient individuals, the local government must provide materials in such language.

(5) (a) On an annual basis, the FLVRA Commission shall publish on its website a list of all of the following:

1. Each local government in which assistance in voting and elections in a language other than English must be provided.

2. Each language in which such assistance must be provided in each local government.

(b) The FLVRA Commission's determinations under this section are effective upon publication, and the FLVRA Commission must distribute this information to each affected local government.

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1396       (6) Each local government described in paragraph (5) (a)  
1397 must provide assistance in voting and elections, including  
1398 related materials, in any language designated by the FLVRA  
1399 Commission under paragraph (5) (a) to voters in a local  
1400 government who are limited English proficient individuals.

1401       (7) Whenever the FLVRA Commission determines that,  
1402 pursuant to this section, language assistance must be provided  
1403 by a local government, the local government must provide  
1404 competent assistance in each designated language and provide  
1405 related materials in English and in each designated language,  
1406 including voter registration or voting notices, forms,  
1407 instructions, assistance, ballots, or other materials or  
1408 information relating to the electoral process. However, in the  
1409 case of a language that is oral or unwritten, including  
1410 historically unwritten languages, as may be the case for some  
1411 Native Americans, a local government may provide only oral  
1412 instructions, assistance, or other information on the electoral  
1413 process in such language. All materials provided in a designated  
1414 language must be of an equal quality to the corresponding  
1415 English materials. All provided translations must convey the  
1416 intent and essential meaning of the original text or  
1417 communication and may not rely solely on automatic translation  
1418 services. If available, language assistance must include live  
1419 translation.

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1420       (8) The FLVRA Commission shall establish a review process  
1421 under which the FLVRA Commission determines, upon receipt of a  
1422 request submitted under this subsection, whether a significant  
1423 and substantial need exists in a local government for a language  
1424 to be designated for language access and assistance in voting  
1425 and elections if such need has not been found under subsection  
1426 (3) or subsection (4). Such process, at a minimum, must include  
1427 an opportunity for any voter or entity to submit a request for  
1428 the commission to consider designating a language in a local  
1429 government; an opportunity for public comment; and a procedure  
1430 for determining that a local government must provide language  
1431 assistance.

1432       (9) Any individual or entity aggrieved by a violation of  
1433 this section, the Attorney General, or the FLVRA Commission may  
1434 file an action alleging a violation of this section. An entity  
1435 aggrieved by a violation of this section includes, but is not  
1436 limited to, any entity whose membership includes individuals  
1437 aggrieved by this section or whose mission would be frustrated  
1438 by a violation of this section, including, but not limited to,  
1439 an entity that would expend or divest resources to fulfill its  
1440 mission as a result of such violation or must expend greater  
1441 resources or efforts to advocate before an elected body that is  
1442 less responsive to the entity or its members due to the alleged  
1443 violation. An entity may not be compelled to disclose the  
1444 identity of any specific member to pursue a claim on behalf of

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its members. This section must be liberally construed to confer standing as broadly as the State Constitution allows. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit.

**Section 14. Section 97.25, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

97.25 Preclearance.—

(1) The enactment or implementation of a covered policy by a covered jurisdiction is subject to preclearance by the FLVRA Commission.

(2) For purposes of this section, a covered policy includes any new or modified:

(a) Election policy or practice.

(b) Method of election, including districting or redistricting.

(c) Form of government.

(d) Annexation, incorporation, dissolution, consolidation, or division of a local government.

(e) Removal of individuals from registry lists or enrollment lists and other activities concerning any such list.

(f) Hours of any early voting site, or location or number of early voting sites, polling places, or secure ballot intake stations.

(g) Assignment of voting precincts to polling places or secure ballot intake station locations.

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1470 (h) Assistance offered to protected class members.

1471 (i) Any additional subject matter the FLVRA Commission may  
1472 identify for inclusion in this subsection, pursuant to FLVRA  
1473 Commission rule, if the FLVRA Commission determines that any  
1474 election policy or practice may have the effect of diminishing  
1475 the right to vote of any protected class member or have the  
1476 effect of violating this act.

1477 (3) Following each decennial census, if a covered  
1478 jurisdiction does not make changes to its method of election,  
1479 including, but not limited to, maintaining an at-large method of  
1480 election or not making revisions to a district-based method of  
1481 election, the method of election must be deemed a covered policy  
1482 and must be submitted to the FLVRA Commission pursuant to this  
1483 section.

1484 (4) A covered jurisdiction includes any of the following:

1485 (a) A local government that, within the preceding 25  
1486 years, has been subject to a court order, government enforcement  
1487 action, court-approved consent decree, or other settlement in  
1488 which the local government conceded liability, based upon a  
1489 violation of this act, the federal Voting Rights Act, the 15th  
1490 Amendment to the United States Constitution, a voting-related  
1491 violation of the 14th Amendment to the United States  
1492 Constitution, or any violation of any other state or federal  
1493 election law, concerning discrimination against members of a  
1494 protected class.

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1495        (b) A local government that, within the preceding 25  
1496 years, has been subject to any court order, government  
1497 enforcement action, court-approved consent decree, or any other  
1498 settlement in which the local government conceded liability,  
1499 based upon a violation of any state or federal civil rights law  
1500 or the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution,  
1501 concerning discrimination against members of a protected class.

1502        (c) A local government that, during the preceding 3 years,  
1503 has failed to comply with its obligation to provide data or  
1504 information to the database pursuant to s. 97.23.

1505        (d) A local government that, during the preceding 25  
1506 years, was found to have enacted or implemented a covered policy  
1507 without obtaining preclearance for that policy pursuant to this  
1508 section.

1509        (e) A local government that contains at least 1,000  
1510 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of  
1511 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the  
1512 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,  
1513 in any year in the preceding 10 years, the percentage of voters  
1514 of any protected class in a local government which participated  
1515 in any general election for any local government office was at  
1516 least 10 percentage points lower than the percentage of all  
1517 voters in the local government who participated in such  
1518 election.

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1519       (f) A local government that contains at least 1,000  
1520 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of  
1521 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the  
1522 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,  
1523 in any year in the preceding 10 years, the percentage of  
1524 eligible voters of that protected class who were registered to  
1525 vote was at least 10 percentage points lower than the percentage  
1526 of all eligible voters in the local government who registered to  
1527 vote.

1528       (g) A local government that contains at least 1,000  
1529 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of  
1530 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the  
1531 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,  
1532 in any year in the preceding 10 years, based on data made  
1533 available by the United States Census, the dissimilarity index  
1534 of such protected class, calculated using census tracts, was in  
1535 excess of 50 percent with respect to the race, color, or  
1536 language minority group that comprises a plurality within the  
1537 local government.

1538       (h) A local government that contains at least 1,000  
1539 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of  
1540 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the  
1541 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,  
1542 in any year in the preceding 10 years, the poverty rate among  
1543 the population of such protected class exceeded the poverty rate

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1544 among the population of the local government as a whole by at  
1545 least 10 percentage points.

1546 (i) A county that contains at least 1,000 eligible voters  
1547 of any protected class, or in which members of any protected  
1548 class constitute at least 10 percent of the eligible voter  
1549 population of the county, and in which, in any year in the  
1550 preceding 10 years, the arrest rate among members of such  
1551 protected class exceeded the arrest rate among the population of  
1552 the county as a whole by at least 10 percentage points.

1553 (j) Any school district that contains at least 1,000  
1554 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of  
1555 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the  
1556 eligible voter population of the school district, and in which,  
1557 in any year in the preceding 10 years, the graduation rate of  
1558 such protected class was lower than the graduation rate of the  
1559 entire district student population by at least 10 percentage  
1560 points.

1561 (5) The FLVRA Commission shall determine on an annual  
1562 basis which local governments are covered jurisdictions and  
1563 publish a list of such jurisdictions on its website.

1564 (6) If a covered jurisdiction seeks preclearance from the  
1565 FLVRA Commission for the adoption or implementation of any  
1566 covered policy, the covered jurisdiction must submit the covered  
1567 policy to the FLVRA Commission in writing and may obtain  
1568 preclearance in accordance with this section.

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(a) The FLVRA Commission shall review the covered policy submitted for preclearance, including any comments submitted by members of the public, and make a determination to grant or deny preclearance. The covered jurisdiction bears the burden of proof in any preclearance determinations.

(b)1. The FLVRA Commission may deny preclearance to a submitted covered policy only if it determines that:

a. The covered policy is more likely than not to diminish the opportunity or ability of protected class members to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of elections; or

b. The covered policy is more likely than not to violate this act.

2. If the FLVRA Commission denies preclearance, the applicable covered jurisdiction may not enact or implement the covered policy. The FLVRA Commission shall provide a written explanation for a denial.

(c) If the FLVRA Commission grants preclearance to a covered policy, the covered jurisdiction may immediately enact or implement the covered policy. A determination by the FLVRA Commission to grant preclearance is not admissible in, and may not be considered by, a court in any subsequent action challenging the covered policy. If the FLVRA Commission fails to deny or grant preclearance to a submitted covered policy within the time periods set forth in paragraph (d), the covered policy

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1594 is deemed to be precleared, and the covered jurisdiction may  
1595 enact or implement the covered policy.

1596 (d) If a covered policy concerns the method of election  
1597 for a legislative body, districting or redistricting, the number  
1598 of seats on the legislative body, or annexation, incorporation,  
1599 dissolution, consolidation, or division of a local government,  
1600 the FLVRA Commission must review the covered policy, including  
1601 any comments submitted by members of the public, and make a  
1602 determination to deny or grant preclearance within 60 days after  
1603 the submission of the covered policy. The FLVRA Commission may  
1604 invoke up to two extensions of 90 days each to make such a  
1605 determination. For all other covered policies, the FLVRA  
1606 Commission shall review the covered policy, including any public  
1607 comment, and make a determination to deny or grant preclearance  
1608 within 30 days after the submission of the covered policy. The  
1609 FLVRA Commission may invoke an extension of 60 days to make such  
1610 a determination.

1611 (e) Any denial of preclearance under this section may be  
1612 appealed only by the covered jurisdiction and must be filed in  
1613 the Second Judicial Circuit. Other parties may not file an  
1614 action to appeal a denial of preclearance or intervene in any  
1615 such action brought by the covered jurisdiction.

1616 (7) If any covered jurisdiction enacts or implements any  
1617 covered policy without obtaining preclearance for such covered  
1618 policy in accordance with this section, any individual or entity

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aggrieved by such a violation, the director of the database and institute, the Attorney General, or the FLVRA Commission may file an action to enjoin enactment or implementation and seek sanctions against the covered jurisdiction for violations of this section. An entity aggrieved by a violation of this section includes, but is not limited to, any entity whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by this section or whose mission would be frustrated by a violation of this section, including, but not limited to, an entity that would expend or divest resources to fulfill its mission as a result of such violation or must expend greater resources or efforts to advocate before an elected body that is less responsive to the entity or its members due to the alleged violation. An entity may not be compelled to disclose the identity of any specific member to pursue a claim on behalf of its members. This section must be liberally construed to confer standing as broadly as the State Constitution allows. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit. A claim under this subsection does not preclude, bar, or limit in any way any other claims that may be brought regarding the covered policy, including claims brought under other sections of this act.

(8) If the FLVRA Commission approves preclearance for a covered policy in violation of this section, identifies or fails to identify a list of local governments that are covered

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jurisdictions in violation of this section, or otherwise fails to properly implement this section, any individual or entity aggrieved by such a violation may file an action seeking appropriate relief, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief on the FLVRA Commission or any other party, as the court deems necessary to enforce this section. An entity aggrieved by a violation of this section includes, but is not limited to, any entity whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by this section or whose mission would be frustrated by a violation of this section, including, but not limited to, an entity that would expend or divest resources to fulfill its mission as a result of such violation or must expend greater resources or efforts to advocate before an elected body that is less responsive to the entity or its members due to the alleged violation. An entity may not be compelled to disclose the identity of any specific member to pursue a claim on behalf of its members. This section must be liberally construed to confer standing as broadly as the State Constitution allows. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit. A claim under this subsection does not preclude, bar, or limit any other claims that may be brought regarding any covered policy, including claims brought under other sections of this act.

(9) The FLVRA Commission shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules concerning the content of and

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procedure for preclearance submission, procedures for public comment and transparency regarding preclearance determinations, and procedures for expedited and emergency preclearance determinations which deviate from the timelines provided in paragraph (6)(d), provided that such preclearance determinations are preliminary.

**Section 15. Section 97.26, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

97.26 Voter intimidation, deception, and obstruction.—

(1) A person may not, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, engage in acts of intimidation, deception, or obstruction, or any other tactic that has the effect of or may reasonably have the effect of interfering with another person's right to vote.

(2) A violation of subsection (1) includes any of the following:

(a) The use of force or threats to use force, or the use of any other conduct to practice intimidation, which causes or will reasonably have the effect of causing interference with an individual's right to vote.

(b) Knowingly using a deceptive or fraudulent device, contrivance, or communication that causes or will reasonably have the effect of causing interference with an individual's right to vote.

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1693        (c) The obstruction of, impediment to, or interference  
1694 with access to any early voting site, polling place, secure  
1695 ballot intake station, or office of the supervisor of elections  
1696 in a manner that causes or will reasonably have the effect of  
1697 causing interference with an individual's right to vote or  
1698 causing any delay in voting or the voting process.

1699        (3) (a) In any action to enforce this section, there is a  
1700 rebuttable presumption that a person has violated this section  
1701 if he or she openly carries or brandishes a firearm, an  
1702 imitation firearm, a toy gun, a machete, an axe, a sword, or any  
1703 weapon as defined in s. 790.001 while:

1704        1. Interacting with or observing any person voting or  
1705 attempting to vote;

1706        2. Urging or aiding any person to vote or attempt to vote,  
1707 whether as part of official election administration activities  
1708 or unofficial activities; or

1709        3. Exercising any power or duty in administering  
1710 elections, including, but not limited to, vote counting,  
1711 c canvassing, or certifying returns.

1712        (b) Law enforcement officers acting within the scope of  
1713 their official duties are not subject to the presumption under  
1714 paragraph (a), but a court may nonetheless consider a law  
1715 enforcement officer's possession of a firearm in determining  
1716 whether the officer violated this section.

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1717       (4) Any individual or entity aggrieved by a violation of  
1718 this section, the Attorney General, or the FLVRA Commission may  
1719 file a civil action alleging a violation of this section. An  
1720 entity aggrieved by a violation of this section includes, but is  
1721 not limited to, any entity whose membership includes individuals  
1722 aggrieved by this section or whose mission would be frustrated  
1723 by a violation of this section, including, but not limited to,  
1724 an entity that would expend or divest resources to fulfill its  
1725 mission as a result of such violation or must expend greater  
1726 resources or efforts to advocate before an elected body that is  
1727 less responsive to the entity or its members due to the alleged  
1728 violation. An entity may not be compelled to disclose the  
1729 identity of any specific member to pursue a claim on behalf of  
1730 its members. This section must be liberally construed to confer  
1731 standing as broadly as the State Constitution allows. Such a  
1732 claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil  
1733 Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit.

1734       (5) In addition to any remedies that may be imposed under  
1735 s. 97.28, if the court finds a violation of this section, the  
1736 court must order appropriate remedies that are tailored to  
1737 addressing the violation, including, but not limited to,  
1738 providing for additional time for individuals to vote in an  
1739 election, a primary, or a referendum and awarding nominal  
1740 damages for any violation and compensatory or punitive damages  
1741 for any willful violation.

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**Section 16. Section 97.27, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

97.27 Democracy canon.—

(1) Any provision of this code and any regulation, charter, home rule ordinance, or other enactment of the state or any local government relating to the right to vote must be liberally construed in favor of the rights enumerated in paragraphs (a)-(e), as follows:

(a) Protecting the right to cast a ballot and make the ballot valid.

(b) Ensuring eligible individuals seeking voter registration are not impaired in being registered.

(c) Ensuring voters are not impaired in voting, including, but not limited to, having their votes counted.

(d) Making the fundamental right to vote more accessible to eligible voters.

(e) Ensuring equitable access for protected class members to opportunities to be registered to vote and to vote.

(2) It is the policy of the state that courts should exercise their discretion on any issue, including, but not limited to, questions of discovery, procedure, admissibility of evidence, or remedies, in favor of the rights enumerated in paragraphs (1)(a)-(e) to the extent allowable by law.

Furthermore, it is the policy of the state to promote the free flow of documents and information concerning the intent of

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public officials in actions concerning the right to vote.  
Accordingly, in any action under this act, the federal Voting  
Rights Act, or a voting-related claim under the State  
Constitution or the United States Constitution, sovereign,  
governmental, executive, legislative, or deliberative immunities  
and privileges, including any evidentiary privileges, may not be  
asserted. However, this section does not apply to any attorney-  
client or attorney work-product privileges.

**Section 17. Section 97.28, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

97.28 Remedies.—

(1) If a court finds a violation of this act, the court  
must order appropriate remedies that are tailored to address  
such violation and to ensure protected class members have  
equitable opportunities to fully participate in the political  
process and that the remedies can be implemented in a manner  
that will not unduly disrupt the administration of an ongoing or  
imminent election. Appropriate remedies include, but need not be  
limited to, any of the following:

(a) Another method of election or changes to the existing  
method of election.

(b) Elimination of staggered elections so that all members  
of the legislative body are elected at the same time.

(c) Reasonably increasing the size of the legislative  
body.

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1792 (d) Additional voting days or hours.

1793 (e) Additional polling places and early voting sites.

1794 (f) Additional opportunities to return ballots.

1795 (g) Holding special elections.

1796 (h) Expanded opportunities for voter registration.

1797 (i) Additional voter education.

1798 (j) The restoration or addition of individuals to registry  
1799 lists.

1800 (k) Retaining jurisdiction for such a period of time as  
1801 the court deems appropriate.

1802 (2) The court shall consider remedies proposed by any  
1803 party to the action or by interested nonparties. The court may  
1804 not give deference or priority to a proposed remedy because it  
1805 is proposed by the state or local government.

1806 (3) If necessary to remedy a violation of this act, the  
1807 court is empowered to require a local government to implement  
1808 remedies that are inconsistent with any other law and any  
1809 special act, charter or home rule ordinance, or other enactment  
1810 of the state or local government.

1811 (4) Notwithstanding the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure  
1812 or any other law, the court must grant a temporary injunction  
1813 and any other preliminary relief requested under this section  
1814 with respect to an upcoming election if the court determines  
1815 that the party is more likely than not to succeed on the merits  
1816 and that it is possible to implement an appropriate temporary

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remedy that would resolve the violation alleged under this section before the next general election.

(5) In any action to enforce this act, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs, including, but not limited to, expert witness fees and expenses, to the party that filed an action, other than a state or local government, and that prevailed in such action. The party that filed the action is deemed to have prevailed when, as a result of litigation, the party against whom the action was filed has yielded some or all of the relief sought in the action. In the case of a party against whom an action was filed and who prevailed, the court may not award the party any costs unless the court finds the action to be frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation.

**Section 18. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 98.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

(4) STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF VALID RESIDENTIAL STREET ADDRESSES.—

(b) The department shall make the statewide database of valid street addresses available to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles as provided in s. 97.057(8) ~~s. 97.057(10)~~. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall use the database for purposes of validating the legal residential addresses provided in voter registration

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1842 applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and  
1843 Motor Vehicles.

1844 **Section 19. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 98.255,**  
1845 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1846 98.255 Voter education programs.—

1847 (1) The Department of State shall adopt rules prescribing  
1848 minimum standards for nonpartisan voter education. The standards  
1849 shall, at a minimum, address:

1850 (a) Voter registration;

1851 (b) Balloting procedures, by mail and polling place;

1852 (c) Voter rights and responsibilities;

1853 (d) Distribution of sample ballots; ~~and~~

1854 (e) Public service announcements; and

1855 (f) Plain writing standards consistent with official  
1856 federal guidelines for the Plain Writing Act of 2010 and United  
1857 States Election Assistance Commission best practices for  
1858 designing effective voter education materials.

1859 (2) Each county supervisor shall implement the minimum  
1860 voter education standards, and shall conduct additional  
1861 nonpartisan education efforts as necessary to ensure that voters  
1862 have a working knowledge of the voting process. This includes  
1863 providing, as far as possible, public-facing voter information  
1864 in plain language reasonably calculated to be understood by  
1865 persons with an 8th grade reading level or lower.

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1866       **Section 20. Section 100.51, Florida Statutes, is created**  
1867 **to read:**

1868       100.51 General Election Day paid holiday.—In order to  
1869 encourage civic participation, enable more individuals to serve  
1870 as poll workers, and provide additional time for the resolution  
1871 of any issue that arises while a voter is casting his or her  
1872 ballot, General Election Day shall be a paid holiday. A voter is  
1873 entitled to absent himself or herself from any service or  
1874 employment in which he or she is engaged or employed during the  
1875 time the polls are open on General Election Day. A voter who  
1876 absents himself or herself under this section may not be  
1877 penalized in any way, and a deduction may not be made from his  
1878 or her usual salary or wages, on account of his or her absence.

1879       **Section 21. Section 101.016, Florida Statutes, is created**  
1880 **to read:**

1881       101.016 Strategic elections equipment reserve.—The  
1882 Division of Elections shall maintain a strategic elections  
1883 equipment reserve of voting systems that may be deployed in the  
1884 event of an emergency as defined in s. 101.732 or upon the  
1885 occurrence of equipment capacity issues due to unexpected voter  
1886 turnout. The reserve must include tabulation equipment and any  
1887 other necessary equipment, including, but not limited to,  
1888 printers, which are in use by each supervisor of elections. In  
1889 lieu of maintaining a physical reserve of such equipment, the

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division may contract with a vendor of voting equipment to  
provide such equipment on an as-needed basis.

**Section 22.** Section 101.019, Florida Statutes, is  
repealed.

**Section 23. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 101.048,  
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

101.048 Provisional ballots.—

(1) At all elections, a voter claiming to be properly  
registered in this ~~the~~ state and eligible to vote ~~at the~~  
~~precinct~~ in the election but whose eligibility cannot be  
determined, a person whom an election official asserts is not  
eligible, including, but not limited to, a person to whom notice  
has been sent pursuant to s. 98.075(7), but for whom a final  
determination of eligibility has not been made, and other  
persons specified in the code shall be entitled to vote a  
provisional ballot at any precinct in the county in which the  
voter claims to be registered. Once voted, the provisional  
ballot must be placed in a secrecy envelope and thereafter  
sealed in a provisional ballot envelope. The provisional ballot  
must be deposited in a ballot box. All provisional ballots must  
remain sealed in their envelopes for return to the supervisor of  
elections. The department shall prescribe the form of the  
provisional ballot envelope. A person casting a provisional  
ballot has the right to present written evidence supporting his

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or her eligibility to vote to the supervisor of elections by not later than 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.

(2) (a) The county canvassing board shall examine each Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate and Affirmation to determine if the person voting that ballot was entitled to vote in the county in which ~~at the precinct where~~ the person cast a vote in the election and that the person had not already cast a ballot in the election. In determining whether a person casting a provisional ballot is entitled to vote, the county canvassing board shall review the information provided in the Voter's Certificate and Affirmation, written evidence provided by the person pursuant to subsection (1), information provided in any cure affidavit and accompanying supporting documentation pursuant to subsection (6), any other evidence presented by the supervisor, and, in the case of a challenge, any evidence presented by the challenger. A ballot of a person casting a provisional ballot must ~~shall~~ be canvassed pursuant to paragraph (b) unless the canvassing board determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the person was not entitled to vote.

(b) If it is determined that the person was registered and entitled to vote in the county in which ~~at the precinct where~~ the person cast a vote in the election, the canvassing board must compare the signature on the Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate and Affirmation or the provisional ballot cure

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affidavit with the signature on the voter's registration or precinct register. A provisional ballot may be counted only if:

1. The signature on the voter's certificate or the cure affidavit matches the elector's signature in the registration books or the precinct register; however, in the case of a cure affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subsection (6) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

2. The cure affidavit contains a signature that does not match the elector's signature in the registration books or the precinct register, but the elector has submitted a current and valid Tier 1 form of identification confirming his or her identity pursuant to subsection (6).

For purposes of this paragraph, any canvassing board finding that signatures do not match must be by majority vote and beyond a reasonable doubt.

(c) Any provisional ballot not counted must remain in the envelope containing the Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate and Affirmation, and the envelope must ~~shall~~ be marked "Rejected as Illegal."

(d) If a provisional ballot is validated following the submission of a cure affidavit, the supervisor must make a copy of the affidavit, affix it to a voter registration application, and immediately process it as a valid request for a signature update pursuant to s. 98.077.

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**Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3) of section 101.62, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:**

101.62 Request for vote-by-mail ballots.—

(1) REQUEST.—

(a) The supervisor shall accept a request for a vote-by-mail ballot only from a voter or, if directly instructed by the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's legal guardian. A request may be made in person, in writing, by telephone, or through the supervisor's website. The department shall prescribe by rule by October 1, 2023, a uniform statewide application to make a written request for a vote-by-mail ballot which includes fields for all information required in this subsection. One request is deemed sufficient to receive a vote-by-mail ballot for all elections until the voter or the voter's designee notifies the supervisor that the voter cancels such request through the end of the calendar year of the next ~~regularly scheduled general election~~, unless the voter or the voter's designee indicates at the time the request is made the elections ~~within such period~~ for which the voter desires to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. The supervisor must cancel a request for a vote-by-mail ballot when any first-class mail or nonforwardable mail sent by the supervisor to the voter is returned as undeliverable. If the voter requests a vote-by-mail

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1988 ballot thereafter, the voter must provide or confirm his or her  
1989 current residential address.

1990 (3) DELIVERY OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS.—

1991 (c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a) or  
1992 paragraph (b), the supervisor shall mail vote-by-mail ballots  
1993 within 2 business days after receiving a request for such a  
1994 ballot, but no later than the 11th ~~10th~~ day before election day.  
1995 The deadline to submit a request for a ballot to be mailed is 5  
1996 p.m. local time on the 12th day before an upcoming election.

1997 (d) Upon a request for a vote-by-mail ballot, the  
1998 supervisor shall provide a vote-by-mail ballot to each voter by  
1999 whom a request for that ballot has been made, by one of the  
2000 following means:

2001 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the  
2002 voter's current mailing address on file with the supervisor or  
2003 any other address the voter specifies in the request. The  
2004 envelopes must be prominently marked "Do Not Forward."

2005 2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine  
2006 transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas  
2007 voters. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter  
2008 may designate in the vote-by-mail ballot request the preferred  
2009 method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the  
2010 method of transmission, the vote-by-mail ballot must be mailed.

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2011 3. By personal delivery to the voter after vote-by-mail  
2012 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day upon  
2013 presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043.

2014 4. By delivery to the voter's designee after vote-by-mail  
2015 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day. Any  
2016 voter may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot  
2017 for the voter; ~~however, the person designated may not pick up~~  
2018 ~~more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election, other than the~~  
2019 ~~designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be~~  
2020 ~~picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. The~~  
2021 ~~designee shall provide to the supervisor the written~~  
2022 ~~authorization by the voter and a picture identification of the~~  
2023 ~~designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall~~  
2024 ~~state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the~~  
2025 ~~voter to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the voter is~~  
2026 ~~a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the~~  
2027 ~~relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the~~  
2028 ~~affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is~~  
2029 ~~authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the~~  
2030 ~~voter on the written authorization matches the signature of the~~  
2031 ~~voter on file, the supervisor must give the ballot to that~~  
2032 ~~designee for delivery to the voter.~~

2033 5. Except as provided in s. 101.655, the supervisor may  
2034 not deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to a voter or a voter's  
2035 designee pursuant to subparagraph 3. or subparagraph 4.,

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respectively, during the mandatory early voting period and up to 7 p.m. on election day, unless there is an emergency, to the extent that the voter will be unable to go to a designated early voting site in his or her county or to his or her assigned polling place on election day. If a vote-by-mail ballot is delivered, the voter or his or her designee must execute an affidavit affirming to the facts which allow for delivery of the vote-by-mail ballot. The department shall adopt a rule providing for the form of the affidavit.

(7) DEADLINE EXTENSION.—If a deadline under this section falls on a day when the office of the supervisor is scheduled to be closed, the deadline must be extended until the next business day.

**Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsections (2) and (4) of section 101.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

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

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

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

## VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

...(Date)...

...(Voter's Signature or Last Four Digits of Social Security  
Number)...

...(E-Mail Address)...     ...(Home Telephone Number)...

...(Mobile Telephone Number)...

(2) The certificate must ~~shall~~ be arranged on the back of  
the mailing envelope so that the line for the signature or last  
four digits of the social security number of the voter ~~absent  
elector~~ is across the seal of the envelope; however, a ~~no~~  
statement may not ~~shall~~ appear on the envelope which indicates  
that a signature or the last four digits of the social security  
number of the voter must cross the seal of the envelope. The

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2084 voter must ~~absent elector shall~~ execute the certificate on the  
2085 envelope.

2086 (4) The supervisor shall mark, code, indicate on, or  
2087 otherwise track the precinct of the voter ~~absent elector~~ for  
2088 each vote-by-mail ballot.

2089 **Section 26. Section 101.65, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
2090 **to read:**

2091 101.65 Instructions to absent electors.—The supervisor  
2092 shall enclose with each vote-by-mail ballot separate printed  
2093 instructions in substantially the following form; however, where  
2094 the instructions appear in capitalized text, the text of the  
2095 printed instructions must be in bold font:

2096  
2097 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY  
2098 BEFORE MARKING BALLOT.  
2099

2100 1. VERY IMPORTANT. In order to ensure that your vote-by-  
2101 mail ballot will be counted, it should be completed and returned  
2102 as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of  
2103 elections of the county in which your precinct is located no  
2104 later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. However, if you  
2105 are an overseas voter casting a ballot in a presidential  
2106 preference primary or general election, your vote-by-mail ballot  
2107 must be postmarked or dated no later than the date of the  
2108 election and received by the supervisor of elections of the

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2109 county in which you are registered to vote no later than 10 days  
2110 after the date of the election. Note that the later you return  
2111 your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any signature  
2112 deficiencies, which may cause your ballot not to be counted ~~is~~  
2113 ~~authorized until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election.~~

2114 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.  
2115 You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so  
2116 because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

2117 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for  
2118 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote  
2119 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one candidate,  
2120 your vote in that race will not be counted.

2121 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy  
2122 envelope.

2123 5. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed mailing  
2124 envelope which is addressed to the supervisor.

2125 6. Seal the mailing envelope and completely fill out the  
2126 Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.

2127 7. VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-mail ballot  
2128 to be counted, you must sign your name or print the last four  
2129 digits of your social security number on the line above (Voter's  
2130 Signature or Last Four Digits of Social Security Number). A  
2131 vote-by-mail ballot will be considered illegal and not be  
2132 counted if the signature or the last four digits of the social  
2133 security number on the voter's certificate do ~~does~~ not match the

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signature or social security number on record. The signature on file at the time the supervisor of elections in the county in which your precinct is located receives your vote-by-mail ballot is the signature that will be used to verify your signature on the voter's certificate. If you need to update your signature for this election, send your signature update on a voter registration application to your supervisor of elections ~~so that it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is received.~~

8. VERY IMPORTANT. If you are an overseas voter, you must include the date you signed the Voter's Certificate or printed the last four digits of your social security number on the line above (Date) or your ballot may not be counted.

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

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

**Section 27. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), paragraph (c) of subsection (2), and paragraphs (a), (c), and**

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2159 **(d) of subsection (4) of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, are**  
2160 **amended to read:**

2161 101.68 Canvassing of vote-by-mail ballot.—

2162 (1)(a) The supervisor of the county where the absent  
2163 elector resides shall receive the voted ballot, at which time  
2164 the supervisor shall compare the signature or the last four  
2165 digits of the social security number of the elector on the  
2166 voter's certificate with the signature or the last four digits  
2167 of the social security number of the elector in the registration  
2168 books or the precinct register to determine whether the elector  
2169 is duly registered in the county and must record on the  
2170 elector's registration record that the elector has voted. During  
2171 the signature comparison process, the supervisor may not use any  
2172 knowledge of the political affiliation of the elector whose  
2173 signature is subject to verification.

2174 (b) An elector who dies after casting a vote-by-mail  
2175 ballot but on or before election day must ~~shall~~ remain listed in  
2176 the registration books until the results have been certified for  
2177 the election in which the ballot was cast. The supervisor shall  
2178 safely keep the ballot unopened in his or her office until the  
2179 county canvassing board canvasses the vote pursuant to  
2180 subsection (2).

2181 (2)

2182 (c)1. The canvassing board must, if the supervisor has not  
2183 already done so, compare the signature or the last four digits

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of the social security number of the elector on the voter's certificate or on the vote-by-mail ballot cure affidavit as provided in subsection (4) with the signature or last four digits of the social security number of the elector in the registration books or the precinct register to see that the elector is duly registered in the county and to determine the legality of that vote-by-mail ballot. A vote-by-mail ballot may only be counted if:

a. The signature or last four digits of the social security number on the voter's certificate or the cure affidavit match ~~matches~~ the elector's signature or last four digits of the social security number in the registration books or precinct register; however, in the case of a cure affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subsection (4) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

b. The cure affidavit contains a signature or the last four digits of a social security number which do ~~that does~~ not match the elector's signature or last four digits of the social security number in the registration books or precinct register, but the elector has submitted a current and valid Tier 1 identification pursuant to subsection (4) which confirms the identity of the elector.

For purposes of this subparagraph, any canvassing board finding that an elector's signatures or last four digits of the

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2209 elector's social security number do not match must be by  
2210 majority vote and beyond a reasonable doubt.

2211 2. The ballot of an elector who casts a vote-by-mail  
2212 ballot shall be counted even if the elector dies on or before  
2213 election day, as long as, before the death of the voter, the  
2214 ballot was postmarked by the United States Postal Service, date-  
2215 stamped with a verifiable tracking number by a common carrier,  
2216 or already in the possession of the supervisor.

2217 3. A vote-by-mail ballot is not considered illegal if the  
2218 signature or last four digits of the social security number of  
2219 the elector do ~~does~~ not cross the seal of the mailing envelope.

2220 4. ~~If any elector or candidate present believes that a~~  
2221 ~~vote-by-mail ballot is illegal due to a defect apparent on the~~  
2222 ~~voter's certificate or the cure affidavit, he or she may, at any~~  
2223 ~~time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file with~~  
2224 ~~the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of that~~  
2225 ~~ballot, specifying the precinct, the voter's certificate or the~~  
2226 ~~cure affidavit, and the reason he or she believes the ballot to~~  
2227 ~~be illegal. A challenge based upon a defect in the voter's~~  
2228 ~~certificate or cure affidavit may not be accepted after the~~  
2229 ~~ballot has been removed from the mailing envelope.~~

2230 5. If the canvassing board determines that a ballot is  
2231 illegal, a member of the board must, without opening the  
2232 envelope, mark across the face of the envelope: "rejected as  
2233 illegal." The cure affidavit, if applicable, the envelope, and

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the ballot therein must ~~shall~~ be preserved in the manner that official ballots are preserved.

(4) (a) As soon as practicable, the supervisor shall, on behalf of the county canvassing board, attempt to notify an elector who has returned a vote-by-mail ballot that does not include the elector's signature or last four digits of the elector's social security number or contains a signature or the last four digits of a social security number that do ~~does~~ not match the elector's signature or last four digits of the elector's social security number in the registration books or precinct register by:

1. Notifying the elector of the signature or last four digits of the social security number deficiency by e-mail and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the supervisor's website;

2. Notifying the elector of the signature or last four digits of the social security number deficiency by text message and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the supervisor's website; or

3. Notifying the elector of the signature or last four digits of the social security number deficiency by telephone and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the supervisor's website.

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In addition to the notification required under subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the supervisor must notify the elector of the signature or last four digits of the social security number deficiency by first-class mail and direct the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the supervisor's website. Beginning the day before the election, the supervisor is not required to provide notice of the signature deficiency by first-class mail, but shall continue to provide notice as required under subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3.

(c) The elector must complete a cure affidavit in substantially the following form:

VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT CURE AFFIDAVIT

I, ....., am a qualified voter in this election and registered voter of .... County, Florida. I do solemnly swear or affirm that I requested and returned the vote-by-mail ballot and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more than once in an election, I may be convicted of a felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and imprisoned for up to 5 years. I understand that my failure to sign this affidavit means that my vote-by-mail ballot will be invalidated.

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... (Voter's Signature or Last Four Digits of Social Security Number) ...

... (Address) ...

(d) Instructions must accompany the cure affidavit in substantially the following form:

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

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

2. You must sign your name or print the last four digits of your social security number on the line above (Voter's Signature or Last Four Digits of Social Security Number).

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

a. Tier 1 identification.—Current and valid identification that includes your name and photograph: Florida driver license; Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway

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2308 Safety and Motor Vehicles; United States passport; debit or  
2309 credit card; military identification; student identification;  
2310 retirement center identification; neighborhood association  
2311 identification; public assistance identification; veteran health  
2312 identification card issued by the United States Department of  
2313 Veterans Affairs; a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon  
2314 or firearm; or an employee identification card issued by any  
2315 branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government,  
2316 the state, a county, or a municipality; or

2317 b. Tier 2 identification.—ONLY IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A TIER 1  
2318 FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, identification that shows your name and  
2319 current residence address: current utility bill, bank statement,  
2320 government check, paycheck, or government document (excluding  
2321 voter information card).

2322 4. Place the envelope bearing the affidavit into a mailing  
2323 envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert a copy of your  
2324 identification in the mailing envelope. Mail (if time permits),  
2325 deliver, or have delivered the completed affidavit along with  
2326 the copy of your identification to your county supervisor of  
2327 elections. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed and  
2328 that the supervisor's address is correct. Remember, your  
2329 information MUST reach your county supervisor of elections no  
2330 later than 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election, or your  
2331 ballot will not count.

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2332 5. Alternatively, you may fax or e-mail your completed  
2333 affidavit and a copy of your identification to the supervisor of  
2334 elections. If e-mailing, please provide these documents as  
2335 attachments.

2336 **Section 28. Section 101.69, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
2337 **to read:**

2338 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.—

2339 (1) The provisions of this code may ~~shall~~ not be construed  
2340 to prohibit any voter ~~elector~~ from voting in person at the  
2341 voter's ~~elector's~~ precinct on the day of an election or at an  
2342 early voting site, notwithstanding that the voter ~~elector~~ has  
2343 requested a vote-by-mail ballot for that election. A voter ~~An~~  
2344 ~~elector~~ who has returned a voted vote-by-mail ballot to the  
2345 supervisor, however, is deemed to have cast his or her ballot  
2346 and is not entitled to vote another ballot or to have a  
2347 provisional ballot counted by the county canvassing board. A  
2348 voter ~~An elector~~ who has received a vote-by-mail ballot and has  
2349 not returned the voted ballot to the supervisor, but desires to  
2350 vote in person, shall return the ballot, whether voted or not,  
2351 to the election board in the voter's ~~elector's~~ precinct or to an  
2352 early voting site. The returned ballot must ~~shall~~ be marked  
2353 "canceled" by the board and placed with other canceled ballots.  
2354 However, if the voter ~~elector~~ does not return the ballot and the  
2355 election official:



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2356 (a) Confirms that the supervisor has received the voter's  
2357 ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, the voter may ~~elector shall~~ not  
2358 be allowed to vote in person. If the voter ~~elector~~ maintains  
2359 that he or she has not returned the vote-by-mail ballot or  
2360 remains eligible to vote, the voter must ~~elector shall~~ be  
2361 provided a provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.

2362 (b) Confirms that the supervisor has not received the  
2363 voter's ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, the voter must ~~elector~~  
2364 ~~shall~~ be allowed to vote in person as provided in this code. The  
2365 voter's ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, if subsequently received,  
2366 may shall not be counted and must shall remain in the mailing  
2367 envelope, and the envelope must shall be marked "Rejected as  
2368 Illegal."

2369 (c) Cannot determine whether the supervisor has received  
2370 the voter's ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, the voter ~~elector~~ may  
2371 vote a provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.

2372 (2)(a) The supervisor shall allow a voter ~~an elector~~ who  
2373 has received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted  
2374 vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail  
2375 envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot  
2376 intake station. Secure ballot intake stations must shall be  
2377 placed at the main office of the supervisor, at each permanent  
2378 branch office of the supervisor which meets the criteria set  
2379 forth in s. 101.657(1)(a) for branch offices used for early  
2380 voting and which is open for at least the minimum number of

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hours prescribed by s. 98.015(4), and at each early voting site. Secure ballot intake stations may also be placed at any other site that would otherwise qualify as an early voting site under s. 101.657(1). Secure ballot intake stations must be geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. ~~Except for secure ballot intake stations at an office of the supervisor, a secure ballot intake station may only be used during the county's early voting hours of operation and must be monitored in person by an employee of the supervisor's office.~~ A secure ballot intake station at an office of the supervisor must be ~~continuously~~ monitored ~~in person~~ by ~~an employee of the supervisor's office~~ when the secure ballot intake station is accessible for deposit of ballots.

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

(c)1. On each day of early voting, all secure ballot intake stations must be emptied at the end of early voting hours

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and all ballots retrieved from the secure ballot intake stations must be returned to the supervisor's office.

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

3. Employees of the supervisor must comply with procedures for the chain of custody of ballots as required by s. 101.015(4).

~~(3) If any secure ballot intake station is left accessible for ballot receipt other than as authorized by this section, the supervisor is subject to a civil penalty of \$25,000. The division is authorized to enforce this provision.~~

**Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 104.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

104.42 Fraudulent registration and illegal voting; investigation.—

(1) The supervisor of elections is authorized to investigate fraudulent registrations and illegal voting and to report his or her findings to the local state attorney ~~and the Office of Election Crimes and Security.~~

**Section 30.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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2430 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:  
2431 A bill to be entitled  
2432 An act relating to elections; amending s. 20.10, F.S.;  
2433 requiring that the Secretary of State be elected  
2434 rather than appointed and serve a specified term;  
2435 specifying when such election must occur; amending s.  
2436 20.32, F.S.; requiring the Florida Commission on  
2437 Offender Review to develop and maintain a database for  
2438 a specified purpose; specifying database requirements;  
2439 requiring specified entities to provide specified  
2440 information to the commission on a monthly basis;  
2441 requiring the Department of Management Services,  
2442 acting through the Florida Digital Service, to provide  
2443 technical assistance to the commission in developing  
2444 and maintaining the database; authorizing the  
2445 Department of Management Services to adopt rules;  
2446 requiring the commission to make the database publicly  
2447 available on a website by a specified date; requiring  
2448 the commission to update the database monthly;  
2449 requiring the commission to publish certain  
2450 instructions on the website; requiring the commission  
2451 to submit a certain comprehensive plan to the Governor  
2452 and the Legislature by a specified date; specifying  
2453 requirements for the comprehensive plan; providing  
2454 that certain persons who register to vote are

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prohibited from being charged with certain crimes as a result of such registration or voting; requiring the commission to adopt rules; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining terms; providing construction; repealing s. 97.022, F.S., relating to the Office of Election Crimes and Security; repealing s. 97.0291, F.S., relating to prohibiting the use of private funds for election-related expenses; creating s. 97.0556, F.S.; authorizing a person who meets certain requirements to register to vote at an early voting site or at his or her polling place and to cast a ballot immediately thereafter; amending s. 97.057, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to preregister certain individuals to vote; providing that driver license or identification card applications, driver license or identification card renewal applications, and applications for changes of address for existing driver licenses or identification cards submitted to the department serve as voter registration applications; providing that an applicant is deemed to have consented to the use of his or her signature for voter registration purposes unless a declination is made; requiring that specified applications include a voter registration component, subject to approval by the Department of State;

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2480 providing requirements for the voter registration  
2481 component; requiring the Department of Highway Safety  
2482 and Motor Vehicles to transmit voter registration  
2483 information electronically to the Department of State  
2484 within a specified timeframe; requiring the Department  
2485 of State to provide such information to supervisors of  
2486 elections; deleting provisions prohibiting persons  
2487 providing voter registration services for a driver  
2488 license office from making changes to an applicant's  
2489 party affiliation without the applicant's consent and  
2490 separate signature; deleting obsolete language; making  
2491 technical changes; amending s. 97.0575, F.S.; revising  
2492 the information a third-party voter registration  
2493 organization is required to provide to the Division of  
2494 Elections of the Department of State; deleting a  
2495 provision that provides for the expiration of such  
2496 organization's registration at the conclusion of the  
2497 general election cycle for which the organization is  
2498 registered; deleting provisions requiring such  
2499 organizations to provide a specified receipt to  
2500 applicants; revising the timeframe within which such  
2501 organizations must deliver completed applications to  
2502 the division or a supervisor of elections; revising  
2503 certain penalties; revising the aggregate limit of  
2504 such penalties; deleting provisions providing criminal

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penalties for the unlawful copying of voter  
registration applications or retaining of a voter's  
personal information; deleting provisions providing  
criminal and administrative penalties; deleting  
provisions requiring the division to adopt certain  
rules; deleting provisions that prohibit providing  
applicants a pre-filled voter registration application  
and a specified fine for such action; deleting  
provisions providing for retroactive application;  
creating part III of ch. 97, F.S., entitled "Florida  
Voting Rights Act"; creating s. 97.21, F.S.;  
prohibiting local governments, state agencies, and  
state officials from implementing, imposing, or  
enforcing election policies, practices, or actions  
that result in, will result in, or are intended to  
result in specified disparities or impairments;  
providing that it is not a violation if such entities  
demonstrate by a specified evidentiary standard  
certain conditions; providing that it is always a  
violation if specified circumstances exist;  
prohibiting local governments from employing methods  
of election that have the effect, will likely have the  
effect, or are motivated in part by the intent of  
diluting the vote of protected class members;  
providing the requirements to establish a violation;

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2530 providing the relevant factors to evaluate the  
2531 totality of circumstances related to voter suppression  
2532 and vote dilution; providing construction; providing  
2533 that such factors are most probative under a specified  
2534 condition; providing the circumstances used to  
2535 determine whether elections in the local government  
2536 exhibit racially polarized voting; providing  
2537 construction; providing the circumstances that are  
2538 never relevant to violations of specified provisions;  
2539 providing that a state interest in preventing voter  
2540 fraud or bolstering voter confidence in the integrity  
2541 of elections is relevant under specified  
2542 circumstances; providing that evidence concerning the  
2543 intent of electors, elected officials, and public  
2544 officials is not required for such violations;  
2545 providing that voting habits of protected class  
2546 members may be relevant to certain violations;  
2547 requiring a prospective plaintiff, before filing a  
2548 certain action against a local government, to send a  
2549 notification letter, by specified means, to the local  
2550 government; prohibiting a party from filing an action  
2551 under specified circumstances; authorizing a local  
2552 government to adopt a specified resolution within a  
2553 specified timeframe; providing that if the proposed  
2554 remedy in such resolution is barred by state or local

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law, or a legislatively body lacks the authority or the local government is a covered jurisdiction, the proposed remedy may be approved by the Florida Voting Rights Act Commission if certain conditions are met; authorizing a party that sent a notification letter to seek reimbursement from the local government under specified circumstances; authorizing a party to bring a cause of action for a specified violation under specified circumstances; requiring local governments to take certain action; requiring the commission to post notification letters and resolutions on its website; authorizing the commission to adopt certain rules; prohibiting local governments from asserting specified defenses; authorizing specified entities to file certain enforcement actions; prohibiting certain entities from being compelled to disclose the identity of a member; providing construction; creating s. 97.22, F.S.; creating the Florida Voting Rights Act Commission within the Department of State; providing that such commission is a separate budget entity and must submit a budget in accordance with specified provisions; providing duties and responsibilities of the commission; providing for the composition of the commission; providing that such commissioners serve staggered terms; requiring that commissioners be

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2580 compensated at a specified hourly rate; requiring the  
2581 formation of a nominating committee; providing for the  
2582 appointment and removal of nominating committee  
2583 members; requiring the nominating committee to select  
2584 a chair; requiring that commissioners be selected  
2585 using a specified process; requiring that  
2586 commissioners initially be selected by lot and  
2587 randomly assigned term lengths for purposes of  
2588 achieving staggered terms; authorizing the commission  
2589 to take specified actions in any action or  
2590 investigation to enforce specified provisions;  
2591 authorizing the commission to hire staff and make  
2592 expenditures for a specified purpose; authorizing the  
2593 commission to adopt rules; creating s. 97.23, F.S.;  
2594 requiring the commission to enter into agreements with  
2595 one or more postsecondary educational institutions to  
2596 create the Florida Voting and Elections Database and  
2597 Institute for a specified purpose; requiring the  
2598 parties to the agreement to enter into a memorandum of  
2599 understanding that includes the process for selecting  
2600 a director; authorizing the database and institute to  
2601 perform specified actions; requiring the database and  
2602 institute to make election and voting data records for  
2603 a specified timeframe available to the public at no  
2604 cost and to maintain such records in an electronic

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format; requiring the database and institute to use certain methodologies when preparing estimates; specifying the data and records that must be maintained; requiring state agencies and local governments to provide any information requested by the director of the database and institute; requiring local governments to transmit specified information to the database and institute within a certain timeframe; requiring specified entities to provide data, statistics, and other information annually to the database and institute; authorizing specified entities to file enforcement actions; prohibiting certain entities from being compelled to disclose the identity of a member for a certain purpose; providing construction; providing that enforcement actions may be filed in accordance with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in a specified venue; requiring the database and institute to publish a certain report; requiring the database and institute to provide nonpartisan technical assistance to specified entities; providing that a rebuttable presumption exists that data, estimates, or other information from the database and institute is valid; creating s. 97.24, F.S.; defining terms; requiring the Florida Voting Rights Act Commission to designate languages

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2630 other than English for which language assistance must  
2631 be provided by a local government, if certain  
2632 conditions exist; providing the circumstances under  
2633 which the commission must designate languages other  
2634 than English for voting and elections; requiring the  
2635 commission to publish specified information annually  
2636 on its website and distribute such information to  
2637 local governments; requiring local governments to  
2638 provide language assistance for specified purposes if  
2639 the commission makes a certain determination;  
2640 specifying the materials that must be provided in such  
2641 language; requiring that certain information be given  
2642 orally to voters; requiring that translated materials  
2643 convey a specified intent and meaning; prohibiting  
2644 local governments from relying on automatic  
2645 translation services; requiring that live translation  
2646 be used if available; requiring the commission to  
2647 establish a specified review process; providing  
2648 requirements for such review process; authorizing  
2649 specified entities to file enforcement actions;  
2650 prohibiting certain entities from being compelled to  
2651 disclose the identity of a member for a certain  
2652 purpose; providing construction; requiring that  
2653 enforcement actions be filed in accordance with the  
2654 Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in a specified

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venue; creating s. 97.25, F.S.; providing that the enactment or implementation of a covered policy by a covered jurisdiction is subject to preclearance by the commission; specifying actions by a local government which are covered policies; requiring that if a covered jurisdiction does not make changes to its method of election, such method is deemed a covered policy that must be submitted to the commission; specifying which local governments are covered jurisdictions; requiring the commission to determine and publish annually a list of local governments that are covered jurisdictions on its website; requiring a covered jurisdiction, if seeking preclearance, to submit the covered policy to the commission in writing; requiring the commission to review the covered policy and grant or deny preclearance; providing that the covered jurisdiction bears the burden of proof in the preclearance process; providing that the commission may deny preclearance only if it makes a certain determination; providing that if preclearance is denied, the covered policy may not be enacted or implemented; requiring the commission to provide a written explanation for a denial; authorizing a covered jurisdiction to immediately enact or implement a covered policy granted

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2680 preclearance; providing that such determination is not  
2681 admissible and may not be considered by a court in a  
2682 subsequent action challenging the covered policy;  
2683 providing that a covered policy is deemed precleared  
2684 and may be implemented or enacted by the covered  
2685 jurisdiction if the commission fails to approve or  
2686 deny the covered policy within specified timeframes;  
2687 requiring the commission to grant or deny preclearance  
2688 within specified timeframes; authorizing the  
2689 commission to invoke a specified number of extensions  
2690 of a specified timeframe to determine preclearance;  
2691 providing that any denial of preclearance may be  
2692 appealed only by the covered jurisdiction in a  
2693 specified venue; authorizing specified entities to  
2694 enjoin the enactment or implementation of specified  
2695 policies and seek sanctions against covered  
2696 jurisdictions in specified circumstances; authorizing  
2697 specified entities to file enforcement actions;  
2698 prohibiting certain entities from being compelled to  
2699 disclose the identity of a member for a certain  
2700 purpose; providing construction; specifying that  
2701 enforcement actions must be filed in accordance with  
2702 the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in a specified  
2703 venue; requiring the commission to adopt rules;  
2704 creating s. 97.26, F.S.; prohibiting a person from

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engaging in acts of intimidation, deception, or  
obstruction or any other tactic that has the effect,  
or will reasonably have the effect, of interfering  
with another person's right to vote; specifying acts  
that are deemed a violation; providing a rebuttable  
presumption; authorizing specified entities to file a  
civil action to enforce specified provisions;  
prohibiting certain entities from being compelled to  
disclose the identity of a member for a certain  
purpose; providing construction; requiring that courts  
order specified remedies; creating s. 97.27, F.S.;  
providing construction; providing applicability;  
creating s. 97.28, F.S.; requiring a court to order  
specified appropriate remedies for violations of the  
act; requiring the court to consider remedies proposed  
by specified parties; prohibiting the court from  
giving deference to a remedy proposed by the state or  
local government; providing that the court is  
empowered to require local governments to implement  
certain remedies under specified conditions; requiring  
the courts to grant a temporary injunction or other  
preliminary relief requested under specified  
conditions; requiring the court to award attorney fees  
and litigation costs in actions to enforce specified  
provisions; amending s. 98.045, F.S.; conforming a

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2730 cross-reference; amending s. 98.255, F.S.; revising  
2731 the standards the Department of State is required to  
2732 prescribe by rule for nonpartisan voter education;  
2733 requiring that supervisors provide public-facing voter  
2734 information in plain language to be understood by  
2735 certain persons; creating s. 100.51, F.S.;  
2736 establishing General Election Day as a paid holiday;  
2737 providing that a voter may absent himself or herself  
2738 from service or employment at a specific time on  
2739 General Election Day and may not be penalized or have  
2740 salary or wages deducted for such absence; creating s.  
2741 101.016, F.S.; requiring the Division of Elections to  
2742 maintain a strategic elections equipment reserve of  
2743 voting systems and other equipment for specified  
2744 purposes; requiring that such reserve include  
2745 specified equipment; authorizing the division to  
2746 contract with specified entities rather than  
2747 physically maintain such reserve; repealing s.  
2748 101.019, F.S., relating to the prohibition of ranked-  
2749 choice voting; amending s. 101.048, F.S.; providing  
2750 that a voter may cast a provisional ballot at any  
2751 precinct in the county in which the voter claims to be  
2752 registered; making technical changes; amending s.  
2753 101.62, F.S.; providing that a request for a vote-by-  
2754 mail ballot is valid until the voter cancels the

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2755 request; revising the timeframe during which the  
2756 supervisor must mail vote-by-mail ballots before  
2757 election day; deleting requirements for a person  
2758 designated by a voter to pick up the voter's vote-by-  
2759 mail ballot; providing for extension of deadlines  
2760 under certain conditions; amending s. 101.64, F.S.;  
2761 requiring supervisors of elections to enclose a  
2762 postage prepaid mailing envelope with each vote-by-  
2763 mail ballot; providing that vote-by-mail ballot voter  
2764 certificates may be signed with the last four digits  
2765 of the voter's social security number; making  
2766 technical changes; amending s. 101.65, F.S.; revising  
2767 the instructions that must be provided with a vote-by-  
2768 mail ballot; amending s. 101.68, F.S.; requiring  
2769 supervisors of elections to compare the signature or  
2770 last four digits of the social security number on a  
2771 voter's certificate with the signature or last four  
2772 digits of the social security number in the  
2773 registration books or precinct register when  
2774 canvassing a vote-by-mail ballot; requiring a  
2775 canvassing board to compare the signature or last four  
2776 digits of the social security number on a voter's  
2777 certificate or vote-by-mail ballot cure affidavit with  
2778 the signature or last four digits of the social  
2779 security number in the registration books or precinct

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register when canvassing a vote-by-mail ballot;  
deleting the authorization for certain persons to file  
a protest against the canvass of a ballot; amending s.  
101.69, F.S.; deleting provisions providing that  
specified secure ballot intake stations be used only  
during specified timeframes and be monitored by an  
employee of the supervisor's office; requiring that  
secure ballot intake stations be monitored by the  
supervisor's office during specified timeframes  
instead of continuously monitored in person by an  
employee; deleting a provision authorizing a certain  
civil penalty; making technical changes; amending s.  
104.42, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made  
by the act; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore were the first  
true civil rights activists of the modern civil rights era in  
this state, and

WHEREAS, the Moores, and the organizations they helped  
found and lead, were instrumental in registering more than  
100,000 black voters in this state, and

WHEREAS, the Moores paid the ultimate price for the  
freedoms they fought to secure for their community when members  
of the Ku Klux Klan bombed their home in Mims on Christmas Day  
in 1951, and

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. HB 1381 (2025)

Amendment No.

WHEREAS, at the time of their death, Florida had the most registered black voters, outpacing any other state in the South, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this act is to encourage maximum participation of all eligible voters in this state's electoral process, and

WHEREAS, electoral systems that deny race, color, or language minority groups an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice and influence the outcome of an election are inconsistent with the right to equal treatment before the law as provided in Articles I and II of the State Constitution as well as protections found in the 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, and

WHEREAS, this act expands voting rights granted under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and reaffirms the well-established principle of "one person, one vote," and

WHEREAS, following decisions by the United States Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*, the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been severely diminished in its ability to protect the freedom and opportunity of black and brown voters to participate fully in the political process of our democratic republic, and

WHEREAS, this act builds on the historical work of the named and nameless Floridians who fought for their right to the elective franchise, NOW, THEREFORE,

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