

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 564

INTRODUCER: Senator Yarborough

SUBJECT: Student Volunteers at Polling Locations

DATE: January 14, 2026 REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Biehl	Roberts	EE	Favorable
2.		ED	
3.		RC	

I. Summary:

SB 564 revises an existing prohibition against use of private funds for election-related expenses by authorizing Florida high school students who are registered or preregistered to vote to volunteer to assist poll workers for the purpose of receiving community service hours.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Poll Workers

Poll workers are short-term employees of supervisors of elections who staff voting sites, assist voters, and work in the elections office. Before beginning service as a poll worker, a person must complete a training curriculum developed by the Department of State.¹

Use of Private Funds for Election-Related Expenses

Current law prohibits an agency or a state or local official responsible for conducting elections from soliciting, accepting, using, or disposing of any donation in the form of money, grants, property, or personal services from an individual or nongovernmental entity for the purpose of funding any type of expenses related to election administration. Such expenses include, but are not limited to, voter education, voter outreach, voter registration programs, or the cost of any litigation related to election administration.²

¹ Section 102.014(1), F.S.

² Section 97.0291, F.S.

The prohibition does not include the donation and acceptance of space to be used for a polling room or an early voting site.³

Qualifications to Register or Vote

A person may become a registered voter only if that person:

- Is at least 18 years of age;
- Is a citizen of the United States;
- Is a legal resident of the State of Florida;
- Is a legal resident of the county in which that person seeks to be registered; and
- Registers pursuant to the Florida Election Code.⁴

A person who is otherwise qualified may preregister on or after that person's 16th birthday and may vote in any election occurring on or after that person's 18th birthday.⁵ Because registration books must be closed on the 29th day before each election and remain closed until after that election,⁶ preregistration allows a person to ensure that he or she will be able to vote in an election that may occur soon after his or her 18th birthday.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 564 revises the prohibition against the use of private funds for election-related expenses. Specifically, the bill provides that the section does not prohibit high school students in this state who are registered or preregistered to vote from volunteering to assist poll workers for the purpose of receiving community service hours.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Section 97.041(1)(a), F.S.

⁵ Section 97.041(1)(b), F.S.

⁶ Section 97.055(1)(a), F.S.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 97.0291, Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

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

None.

B. Amendments:

None.