

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "election board"; providing definitions; amending s. 101.015, F.S.; requiring the Department of State to adopt certain standards and manuals that include specified information; amending s. 101.5604, F.S.; requiring voting systems be updated to the current versions of all approved hardware and software; requiring counties to hand-count certain ballots; authorizing the use of certain voting systems by counties that are parallel to hand-counting; limiting the use of ballot marking devices; providing an exception; requiring the Department of State to adopt rules to transition from machine-counting of ballots to full hand-counting of ballots by a certain date; providing requirements for such transition; requiring the department to create specified manuals; providing requirements for such manuals; amending s. 101.69, F.S.; revising provisions relating to secure ballot intake station locations, security, designations, and ballot handling processes; amending s. 101.71, F.S.; authorizing supervisors to contract to rent buildings in specified circumstances; amending s. 101.733, F.S. authorizing the Governor, in

Page 1 of 29

94143

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

V

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

consultation with the Secretary of State, to direct counties to invoke a specified contingency plan; amending s. 102.012, F.S.; revising the officers authorized to conduct elections to include hand-counting workers, absentee vote processing workers, and youth election interns; requiring the supervisor to appoint election board members from certain political parties; providing requirements for composition of election board members and hand-counting teams by political parties; authorizing certain individuals to nominate youth election interns if they meet specified requirements; authorizing certain individuals to submit such list of nominees in a specified manner by a certain time; authorizing interns to take certain actions under the supervision of specified parties; authorizing specified supervisors and election board members to remove interns; requiring law enforcement officers to exclude interns upon request by specified parties; requiring interns be given a specified document; requiring the county canvassing board to hear challenges to intern removals and make certain decisions; amending s. 102.021, F.S.; authorizing election board members to work during a specified time of day if certain

Page 2 of 29

94143

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

V

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

conditions are met; amending s. 102.031, F.S.;
authorizing supervisors to use audio-video
communication technology for specified purposes;
amending s. 683.01, F.S.; declaring general election
day to be a legal and public holiday on a specified
date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 97.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

(2) "Absent uniformed services voter" means:

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

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

(c) A spouse or dependent of a member referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) who, by reason of the active duty

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote.

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

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

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

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

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

(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

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

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.

(8) "Cyber-attack" means an attempt to gain unauthorized access to system services, resources, or information, or an attempt to compromise system integrity.

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ "Department" means the Department of State.

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

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

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

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

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

~~(15)~~~~(14)~~ "Election board" means the hand-counting team members, clerk, and inspectors appointed to conduct an election.

~~(16)~~~~(15)~~ "Election costs" shall include, but not be limited to, expenditures for all paper supplies such as envelopes, instructions to voters, affidavits, reports, ballot

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

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

~~(17)(16)~~ "Elector" is synonymous with the word "voter" or "qualified elector or voter," except where the word is used to describe presidential electors.

~~(18)(17)~~ "General election" means an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered years, for the purpose of filling national, state, county, and district offices and for voting on constitutional amendments not otherwise provided for by law.

(19) "Hand-counting area" means the space within the polling room or polling location where vote totals are tallied by hand-counting by election board members who examine each paper ballot.

(20) "Hand-counting recorders" means two workers each counting by hand, one from each major political party, who tally the votes received by all candidates and each vote received for or against all amendments, questions, or propositions.

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

(21) "Hand-counting tellers" means two workers each counting by hand, one for each major political party, who read aloud each vote received by all candidates and each vote received for or against all amendments, questions, or propositions.

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

(23) "Major political party" means the political party whose candidates received the highest or second highest number of votes in the last certified general election for statewide and district level races.

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

(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

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

emergency relief service, as an officer or crew member of such vessel.

~~(25)~~~~(20)~~ "Minor political party" is any group as specified in s. 103.095 which on January 1 preceding a primary election does not have registered as members 5 percent of the total registered electors of the state.

~~(26)~~~~(21)~~ "Newspaper of general circulation" means a newspaper printed in the language most commonly spoken in the area within which it circulates and which is readily available for purchase by all inhabitants in the area of circulation, but does not include a newspaper intended primarily for members of a particular professional or occupational group, a newspaper the primary function of which is to carry legal notices, or a newspaper that is given away primarily to distribute advertising.

~~(27)~~~~(22)~~ "Nominal value" means having a retail value of \$10 or less.

~~(28)~~~~(23)~~ "Nonpartisan office" means an office for which a candidate is prohibited from campaigning or qualifying for election or retention in office based on party affiliation.

~~(29)~~~~(24)~~ "Office that serves persons with disabilities" means any state office that takes applications either in person or over the telephone from persons with disabilities for any program, service, or benefit primarily related to their

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

disabilities.

(30)~~(25)~~ "Overseas voter" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(34)~~(29)~~ "Polling place" is the building which contains

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

the polling room where ballots are cast.

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

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

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

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

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

(40)~~(35)~~ "Qualifying educational institution" means any public or private educational institution receiving state financial assistance which has, as its primary mission, the provision of education or training to students who are at least 18 years of age, provided such institution has more than 200 students enrolled in classes with the institution and provided that the recognized student government organization has

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

requested this designation in writing and has filed the request with the office of the supervisor of elections in the county in which the institution is located.

(41) "Rejected hand-counted ballot" means any ballot that needed to be reviewed by the canvassing board because the hand-counting teams could not agree on the voter intent.

(42) "Results worksheet" means the worksheet where tally sheets for each batch of ballots are totaled.

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

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

(45) "Statement of returns" means the document signed by the clerk and hand-counting workers that contains the final agreed-upon results for a polling place or absentee vote counting center.

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

(47) "Tally sheet" means the form that hand-counting tellers use to record the votes on each ballot.

(48)~~(39)~~ "Tactile input device" means a device that provides information to a voting system by means of a voter

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

touching the device, such as a keyboard, and that complies with the requirements of s. 101.56062(1)(k) and (l).

~~(49)~~~~(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.

~~(50)~~~~(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.

~~(51)~~~~(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.

~~(52)~~~~(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

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

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.

(53)~~(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.

(54)~~(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.

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

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

(57) "Youth election intent" means an election board

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

member or absentee vote processing worker age 16 or 17 who is a full time student in a secondary school in this state.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 101.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.015 Standards for voting systems.—

(4) (a) The Department of State shall adopt rules establishing minimum security standards for voting systems, create an absentee ballot processing manual, and a hand-counting manual adopted by rule composed of such standards. The standards, at a minimum, must address the following:

1. Chain of custody of ballots, including a detailed description of procedures to create a complete written record of the chain of custody of ballots and paper outputs beginning with their receipt from a printer or manufacturer until such time as they are destroyed.

2. Transport of ballots, including a description of the method and equipment used and a detailed list of the names of all individuals involved in such transport.

3. Ballot security, including a requirement that all ballots be kept in a locked room in the supervisor's office, a facility controlled by the supervisor or county canvassing board, or a public place in which the county canvassing board is canvassing votes until needed for canvassing and returned thereafter.

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

4. Ballot design that enables both hand-counting and electronic tabulation audits to ensure only legally issued ballots are counted.

5. A contingency plan for hand-counting of ballots if voting systems become compromised or unavailable due to a cyber-attack or natural disaster.

6. Oaths for election board members and absentee ballot processing workers.

7. Proper chain of custody of ballots between the ballot box, the hand-counting team, and storage.

8. Proper documentation of the number of rejected hand-counted ballots on tally sheets and results worksheets to enable auditing.

9. Reconciliation to ensure only legal ballots are counted.

10. Accommodation of observers.

Section 3. Section 101.5604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.5604 Adoption of system; procurement of equipment; commercial tabulations.—

(1) The board of county commissioners of any county, at any regular meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose, may, upon consultation with the supervisor of elections, adopt, purchase or otherwise procure, and provide for the use of any

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

electronic or electromechanical voting system approved by the Department of State in all or a portion of the election precincts of that county. Thereafter the electronic or electromechanical voting system may be used for voting at all elections for public and party offices and on all measures and for receiving, registering, and counting the votes thereof in such election precincts as the governing body directs if the voting system is updated to the current versions of all approved hardware and software.

(2) Every county must hand-count:

(a) Election day ballots at the polling place.

(b) Vote-by-mail ballots received by the United States Postal Service, election office secure ballot intake stations, or facsimile at the absentee vote counting center.

(3) A county ~~may must~~ use an electronic or electromechanical precinct-count tabulation voting system parallel to hand-counting. The use of ballot marking devices must be limited to voters who request to use such devices because of a disability or need for language assistance.

(4) The department shall adopt rules by December 31, 2025, to transition from machine-counting of ballots to full hand-counting of ballots before the 2028 election cycle. The transition must require:

(a) The immediate change of all ballot designs to enable

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

both hand-counting and electronic tabulation.

(b) Implementing the hand-count of ballots, including the electronic tabulator count operation in the 2026 election cycle.

(c) A written assessment from each supervisor after the 2026 general election on the feasibility of and resources needed to transition to the full hand-counting of ballots, along with a cost-benefit analysis of continuing the hybrid count as provided in paragraph (b).

(5) The Department of State shall adopt rules for hand-counting procedures. Such procedures shall include the following requirements:

(a) Hand-counting teams consist of two hand-counting tellers, one from each major political party, and two hand-counting recorders, also from each major political party.

(b) The election board verifies and documents that the ballot box is empty before the polls open. The ballot box is then locked, and the key is held by the clerk.

(c) The ballot box must always remain in public view until it is transferred to the hand-counting team for ballot-counting and the transfer of ballots from the ballot box to the hand-counting area is properly documented.

(d) Hand-counting must begin no more than 1 hour after polls open.

(e) Once the hand-count begins, it may not be adjourned or

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

postponed until all votes on all ballots have been counted.

(f) Members of the hand-counting teams may not provide information on the results in progress.

(6) The Department of State shall develop a manual for hybrid hand-count and electronic tabulator operations during the 2026 election cycle. The manual shall include:

(a) How hand-counting will be implemented for manual cross-checks, back-up operations, and for postelection audits.

(b) Election day reconciliation, including all of the following information:

1. The number of ballots counted by precinct tabulators as indicated by the public count displayed with the number of processed ballots transported to storage and the number of verified voters checked in.

2. The number of voters who checked in to the precinct with the number of voting passes and ballots issued to voters.

3. The number of blank ballots processed through the precinct tabulator with the number of blank ballots placed in separate envelopes to enable auditing.

4. The number of unused ballots delivered to the polling place, including ballots printed on demand at the polling place with the daily ballots processed and remaining unused ballots.

5. Use of hand-counting to verify machine tabulation after the polls are closed on election day and during each day of

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

absentee ballot canvassing which shall be completed in the following manner:

a. A hand-counting team will conduct a hand-count audit of a randomly chosen race in addition to the race for the highest office on the ballot in the presence of any members of the public who wish to observe.

b. Any discrepancies between the manual hand-count and the electronic tabulator count will be flagged and reported to the supervisor of elections office and posted for the public.

c. The supervisor will be tasked with verifying any discrepancies over the next 3 days with interested members of the public with, at a minimum, one person from each major political party present.

d. If there is a discrepancy, all ballots for the entire precinct, and all races, must be hand-counted and those results, once verified, will override the electronic tabulator count.

Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 101.69, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2)(a) The supervisor shall allow an elector who has received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot intake station. ~~Secure ballot intake stations shall be placed at~~

~~the main office of the supervisor, at each permanent branch office of the supervisor which meets the criteria set forth in s. 101.657(1)(a) for branch offices used for early voting and which is open for at least the minimum number of 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~~

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

~~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 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.~~

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

Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 101.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.71 Polling place.—

(5) Public, tax-supported buildings must be made available for use as polling places, or early voting locations that meet the requirements specified in s. 101.657, upon the request of the supervisor of elections. If no such building is available, the supervisor shall attempt to secure the use of a building that is exempt from ad valorem taxation. In the event that no such building is available, the supervisor may contract for the rental of a suitable polling place in the district. All polling

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

place contracts shall incorporate physical security measures defined by the department based on recommendations from a physical security specialist.

Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 101.733, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:

101.733 Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency contingency plan.—Because of the existing and continuing possibility of an emergency or common disaster occurring before or during a regularly scheduled or special election, and in order to ensure maximum citizen participation in the electoral process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons seeking to exercise their right to vote, generally to minimize to whatever degree possible a person's exposure to danger during declared states of emergency, and to protect the integrity of the electoral process, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary to designate a procedure for the emergency suspension or delay and rescheduling of elections.

(3) The Governor may, upon consultation with the Secretary of State, direct counties to invoke their manual hand-count contingency plan if election infrastructure has been compromised or potentially compromised by a system fault, by a cyber-attack, disclosure of sensitive information, natural disaster, or other risk he or she may deem sufficient.

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 102.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.012 Inspectors, ~~and~~ clerks, hand-counting workers, absentee vote processing workers, and youth election interns to conduct elections.—

(1)(a) The supervisor of elections of each county, at least 20 days before ~~prior~~ to the holding of any election, shall appoint an election board comprised of poll workers who serve as clerks, ~~or~~ inspectors, hand-counting workers, absentee vote processing workers, and youth election interns for each precinct in the county. The clerk shall be in charge of, and responsible for, seeing that the election board carries out its duties and responsibilities. Each inspector, hand-counting worker, absentee vote processing worker, youth election intern, and ~~each~~ clerk shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation, which shall be written or printed, to the effect that he or she will perform the duties of inspector, hand-counting worker, absentee vote processing worker, youth election intern, or clerk of election, respectively, according to law and will endeavor to prevent and report all fraud, deceit, or abuse in conducting the election. The oath shall ~~may~~ be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths or before any of the persons who are to act as election board members ~~inspectors~~, one of them to swear the others, and one of the others sworn thus, in turn, to administer

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

the oath to the one who has not been sworn. The oaths shall be returned with the poll list and the returns of the election to the supervisor. In all questions that may arise before the members of an election board, the decision of a majority of them shall decide the question. The supervisor of elections of each county shall be responsible for the attendance and diligent performance of his or her duties by each clerk and inspector.

(b) If two or more precincts share the same building and voting place, the supervisor of elections may appoint one election board for the collocated precincts. The supervisor shall provide that a sufficient number of poll workers are appointed to adequately handle the processing of the voters in the collocated precincts.

(c) The supervisor shall appoint at least one election board member from each major political party to serve at each polling place. One of the major political parties may not have a majority of the board members at any polling place. A political party may not have a greater number of election board members at any polling place than any major political party.

(d) The hand-counting team shall consist of two team members from each political party.

(e) The chief administrative officer of any high school or equivalent learning center of this state may nominate a student in grade 11 or grade 12 to be a youth election intern if such

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

student meets all of the following requirements:

1. Have demonstrated age-appropriate academic ability and demeanor.

2. Be a United States citizen.

3. Be a person of good repute who can speak, read, and write the English language.

4. Is not related to an opposed candidate on the ballot within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity.

(f) The chief administrative officer of the school shall transmit a written list of nominees to the supervisor of the county at least 60 days before the election. If, in the opinion of the supervisor, the appointment of interns nominated pursuant to this section would not be disruptive to the election process, the supervisor may appoint any number of interns for each polling place or place where votes are to be counted. Such appointment shall include a schedule of the time during which the intern is expected to serve.

(g) Subject to the provisions of this section and under the direct supervision of permanent staff member of the supervisor's office or a clerk, each intern may assist in the administration of the polling place; assist in the counting of votes; perform absentee vote processing; and assist in the execution of any administrative duty of any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of elections, or election board

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

member, and perform any other duties as instructed.

(h) Each supervisor and election board member appointed pursuant to this chapter shall have the authority to direct any intern in his or her duties and to compel compliance with law. Each supervisor may, in his or her sole discretion, substitute interns on or before election day. Each supervisor and each election board member shall have the authority to remove any intern from any polling place or place where votes are being counted. It is the duty of any law enforcement officer, if requested by the supervisor or an election board member, to exclude any intern from the polling place or place where votes are being counted. The intern must be given a document explaining they reason they were removed. The county canvassing board must hear any challenges to an intern removal and decide if such removal was a violation of the intern's constitutional rights.

Section 8. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section 102.021, Florida Statutes, to read:

102.021 Compensation of inspectors, clerks, and deputy sheriffs.—

(3) Election board members may be employed to serve for the first half or last half of any election day. Such election board members shall be paid one-half the regular rate of pay.

(4) If part-time election board members are employed, the

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

supervisor shall employ such election board members and shall see that a sufficient number for each period are present at all times so as to have the proper total number of election board members present at each polling place throughout each election day. The supervisor shall require that at each polling place at least one election board member from each political party serve a full day and that at all times during the day there be an equal number of election board member from each political party.

Section 9. Subsection (5) of section 102.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.031 Maintenance of good order at polls; authorities; persons allowed in polling rooms and early voting areas; unlawful solicitation of voters.—

(5) No photography is permitted in the polling room or early voting area, except:

(a) An elector may photograph his or her own ballot.

(b) The supervisor may use audio-video communication technology for:

1. Local or remote viewing of the manual ballot hand-counting process provided he or she does not record voting activity.

2. Capturing the images of people approaching the tabulator bin, the hand-counting ballot-box, and the ballot printer area.

BILL

Redraft - A

YEAR

3. Recording the entrances and exits of the polling place.

Section 10. Paragraphs (q) through (v) of subsection (1) of section 683.01, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (r) through (w), respectively, and a new paragraph (q) is added to that subsection, to read:

683.01 Legal holidays.—

(1) The legal holidays, which are also public holidays, are the following:

(q) General Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year.

Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.