

By Senator Rich

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to early voting; amending s. 101.657,
3 F.S.; expanding the list of available sites at which
4 early voting may be held to include specified
5 facilities or any other location designated by a
6 supervisor of elections as meeting the requirements of
7 state law; deleting a requirement that an early voting
8 site be designated and used as such for at least 1
9 year before an election; providing requirements for
10 determining the number of early voting sites each
11 county must operate; expanding early voting hours to
12 12 hours per weekday and at least 12 hours in the
13 aggregate each weekend at each site during the
14 applicable periods; providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
19 section 101.657, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

20 101.657 Early voting.—

21 (1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of
22 elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or
23 branch office of the supervisor, any city hall, public library
24 facility, courthouse, place of worship, civic center, convention
25 center, community center, county government center, conference
26 center, community college facility, university or college,
27 fairgrounds, or any other location designated by the supervisor
28 as meeting the requirements of this section. The supervisor
29 shall mark, code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's

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30 precinct for each early voted ballot. ~~In order for a branch~~
31 ~~office to be used for early voting, it shall be a permanent~~
32 ~~facility of the supervisor and shall have been designated and~~
33 ~~used as such for at least 1 year prior to the election. The~~
34 ~~supervisor may also designate any city hall or permanent public~~
35 ~~library facility as Early voting sites; however, if so~~
36 ~~designated, the sites must be geographically located so as to~~
37 provide all voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a
38 ballot, insofar as is practicable. Each county shall operate the
39 same total number of early voting sites that it used for the
40 2008 general election, or one early voting site plus one
41 additional early voting site for every complete set of 65,000
42 registered voters in the county as of July 1 of each general
43 election year, whichever is greater. The results or tabulation
44 of votes cast during early voting may not be made before the
45 close of the polls on election day. Results shall be reported by
46 precinct.

47 (d) Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before an
48 election and end on the 2nd day before an election. For purposes
49 of a special election held pursuant to s. 100.101, early voting
50 shall begin on the 8th day before an election and end on the 2nd
51 day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for 12 &
52 hours per weekday and at least 12 & hours in the aggregate each
53 weekend at each site during the applicable periods. Early voting
54 sites shall open no sooner than 7 a.m. and close no later than 7
55 p.m. on each applicable day.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.