

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to elections; providing short titles;
3 amending s. 20.32, F.S.; requiring the Florida
4 Commission on Offender Review to develop and maintain
5 a database containing certain information for a
6 certain purpose; requiring certain governmental
7 entities to provide certain information to the
8 commission; requiring the Department of Management
9 Services, acting through the Florida Digital Service,
10 to provide certain technical assistance to the
11 commission; authorizing the department to adopt rules;
12 requiring the commission to make the database
13 available to the public on an Internet website by a
14 certain date; requiring the commission to update the
15 database monthly and publish certain information on
16 the website; requiring the commission to provide a
17 comprehensive plan to the Governor and Legislature by
18 a certain date; providing requirements for such plan;
19 prohibiting certain persons from being charged with
20 certain violations; requiring the commission to adopt
21 rules; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; providing
22 definitions; repealing s. 97.022, F.S., relating to
23 the Office of Election Crimes and Security; repealing
24 s. 97.0291, F.S., relating to a prohibition on the use
25 of private funds for election-related expenses;

26 | creating s. 97.0293, F.S.; prohibiting certain
27 | governmental entities from taking certain actions
28 | relating to elections; providing a rebuttable
29 | presumption; prohibiting a local government from
30 | employing certain election methods; requiring courts
31 | to adhere to certain guidelines when making certain
32 | determinations; providing factors that courts may
33 | consider when making certain determinations;
34 | prohibiting courts from considering certain factors
35 | when making certain determinations; requiring a
36 | plaintiff to send a certain notification letter to a
37 | local government in certain circumstances; providing
38 | requirements for such letter; authorizing a local
39 | government to adopt a certain resolution in certain
40 | circumstances; providing requirements for such
41 | resolution; prohibiting a local government from
42 | asserting the doctrine of laches as a defense to
43 | certain claims; authorizing certain persons to file
44 | certain actions; creating s. 97.02935, F.S.; providing
45 | a definition; requiring the Florida Voting Rights Acts
46 | Commission to designate certain languages for which
47 | assistance in voting and elections must be provided in
48 | certain circumstances; requiring the commission to
49 | find that a significant and substantial need exists in
50 | certain circumstances; requiring the commission to

51 annually publish a certain list on its website;
52 requiring a local government to provide certain
53 assistance in voting and elections; providing
54 requirements for such assistance; requiring the
55 commission to adopt certain rules; authorizing certain
56 persons to file certain claims; creating s. 97.0294,
57 F.S.; requiring the commission to enter into an
58 agreement with one or more universities to create the
59 Florida Voting and Elections Database and Institute;
60 providing requirements for the database and institute;
61 authorizing the database and institute to take certain
62 actions; requiring the database and institute to
63 maintain certain data and records in an electronic
64 format and make such data and records available to the
65 public; requiring state agencies and local governments
66 to timely provide the director of the database and
67 institute with certain information; requiring each
68 local government to transmit to the database and
69 institute copies of certain information within a
70 certain period; authorizing certain persons to file
71 certain actions; requiring the database and institute
72 to publish a certain report annually within a certain
73 period; providing a rebuttable presumption; creating
74 s. 97.0295, F.S.; establishing the Florida Voting
75 Rights Act Commission; providing that the commission

76 | is not a unit of any other state agency; providing for
77 | selection, compensation, terms, and qualifications of
78 | commissioners; providing powers of the commission;
79 | authorizing the commission to hire staff, make
80 | expenditures, and adopt rules; creating s. 97.0296,
81 | F.S.; providing that the enactment or implementation
82 | of certain policies by a covered jurisdiction is
83 | subject to preclearance by the commission; requiring
84 | the commission to annually make and publish a certain
85 | determination online; requiring a covered jurisdiction
86 | to seek preclearance from the commission in a certain
87 | manner; authorizing the commission to deny
88 | preclearance in certain circumstances; providing
89 | requirements for review of certain covered policies;
90 | authorizing certain persons to file certain actions;
91 | requiring the commission to adopt certain rules;
92 | creating s. 97.0297, F.S.; providing construction;
93 | prohibiting the assertion of certain immunities and
94 | privileges in certain circumstances; creating s.
95 | 97.0298, F.S.; authorizing a court to order certain
96 | appropriate remedies; authorizing a court to consider
97 | certain remedies; requiring a court to grant a
98 | temporary injunction or certain other relief in
99 | certain circumstances; requiring a court to award
100 | certain fees and costs to a prevailing party in

101 certain circumstances; creating s. 97.0299, F.S.;

102 establishing a voter education fund to be administered

103 by the commission; authorizing the commission to

104 expend moneys from the fund for certain purposes;

105 creating s. 97.0556, F.S.; authorizing certain persons

106 to register to vote and immediately thereafter cast a

107 vote in certain circumstances; amending s. 97.057,

108 F.S.; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and

109 Motor Vehicles to preregister certain individuals to

110 vote; providing that driver license or identification

111 card applications, driver license or identification

112 card renewal applications, and applications for a

113 change of address for existing driver licenses or

114 identification cards submitted to the department serve

115 as voter registration applications; providing that an

116 applicant is deemed to have consented to the use of

117 his or her signature for voter registration purposes;

118 providing an exception; requiring specified

119 applications to include a voter registration

120 component, subject to approval by the Department of

121 State; specifying requirements for such component;

122 requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor

123 Vehicles to electronically transmit voter registration

124 information to the Department of State within a

125 certain period; requiring the Department of State to

126 provide such information to supervisors of elections;
127 deleting obsolete language; making technical changes;
128 amending s. 97.0575, F.S.; revising information that a
129 third-party voter registration organization must
130 provide to the Division of Elections; removing a
131 provision that provides for the automatic expiration
132 of the registration of such organization; removing a
133 provision that requires such organization to provide a
134 certain receipt to an applicant; removing a provision
135 that requires such organization to deliver a voter
136 registration application to a certain supervisor of
137 elections; revising the period within which such
138 organization must deliver such applications to the
139 division or a supervisor of elections; revising the
140 amounts of certain fines; removing a provision that
141 subjects such organization to certain fines for
142 certain acts committed by a person collecting
143 applications on behalf of such organization; removing
144 a provision that requires the division to adopt by
145 rule a certain form and certain rules; removing a
146 provision that prohibits such organization from
147 prefilling certain information on an application and
148 that provides for certain fines; removing a provision
149 relating to retroactive application of certain
150 requirements; amending s. 98.045, F.S.; conforming a

151 cross-reference; creating s. 100.51, F.S.;

152 establishing General Election Day as a paid holiday;

153 authorizing an elector to absent himself or herself

154 from service or employment during a certain period on

155 such day; prohibiting such elector from being

156 penalized or having his or her salary or wages reduced

157 for such absence; creating s. 101.016, F.S.; requiring

158 the Division of Elections to maintain a strategic

159 elections equipment reserve of voting systems for

160 specified purposes; requiring such reserve to include

161 specified equipment; authorizing the division to

162 contract with specified entities rather than

163 maintaining a physical reserve of such equipment;

164 repealing s. 101.019, F.S., relating to a prohibition

165 on ranked-choice voting; amending s. 101.048, F.S.;

166 authorizing a voter to cast a provisional vote at any

167 precinct in the county in which the voter claims to be

168 registered; amending s. 101.62, F.S.; providing that a

169 request for a vote-by-mail ballot is valid until such

170 request is canceled; revising the deadline by which

171 requests for vote-by-mail ballots must be received by

172 a supervisor of elections; removing provisions

173 providing requirements for a person designated by an

174 elector to pick up the elector's vote-by-mail ballot;

175 requiring the extension of deadlines in certain

176 | circumstances; amending s. 101.64, F.S.; requiring
 177 | supervisors of elections to enclose a postage prepaid
 178 | mailing envelope with each vote-by-mail ballot;
 179 | authorizing vote-by-mail ballot voter's certificates
 180 | to be signed with the last four digits of the voter's
 181 | social security number; amending s. 101.69, F.S.;
 182 | removing a provision that limits the use of a secure
 183 | ballot intake station to certain hours and that
 184 | requires certain monitoring; removing a provision that
 185 | subjects a supervisor of elections to a civil penalty
 186 | in certain circumstances; amending s. 104.0515, F.S.;
 187 | prohibiting a person from deceiving, or attempting to
 188 | deceive, another person for certain purposes;
 189 | specifying certain acts that violate a certain
 190 | prohibition; authorizing certain persons to file
 191 | certain civil actions; requiring a court to impose
 192 | certain remedies; amending s. 104.42, F.S.; conforming
 193 | a provision to changes made by the act; providing an
 194 | effective date.

195 |
 196 | WHEREAS, electoral systems that deny race, color, or
 197 | language minority groups an equal opportunity to elect
 198 | candidates of their choice and influence the outcome of an
 199 | election are inconsistent with the right to equal treatment
 200 | before the law as provided in s. 2, Art. I of the State

201 Constitution as well as protections found in the Fourteenth and
 202 Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and
 203 WHEREAS, following United States Supreme Court decisions in
 204 Shelby County v. Holder and Brnovich v. Democratic National
 205 Committee, the landmark federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 has
 206 been severely diminished in its ability to protect the freedom
 207 of black and brown voters to fully participate in the political
 208 processes of our democratic republic, and
 209 WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore and Harriette V. Moore were the
 210 first true civil rights activists of the modern civil rights era
 211 in the State of Florida, and were instrumental in registering
 212 more than 100,000 black voters in the state, and
 213 WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore and Harriette V. Moore paid the
 214 ultimate price for the freedoms fought for their community when
 215 their home in Mims was bombed by members of the Ku Klux Klan on
 216 the night of Christmas, December 25, 1951, and
 217 WHEREAS, By the time of their death, Florida had the
 218 highest number of registered black voters, far more than any
 219 other state in the South, and
 220 WHEREAS, this bill expands on voting rights granted under
 221 the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, reaffirms the well-
 222 established principle of "one person, one vote," and builds on
 223 the historical work of the named and nameless Floridians who
 224 fought for their right to the elective franchise, and
 225 WHEREAS, given their history and the intended impact of

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2024

226 | this act on voting rights in this state, it is appropriate to
 227 | name this act after Harry T. Moore and Harriette V. Moore, NOW,
 228 | THEREFORE,

229 |
 230 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

231 |
 232 | Section 1. Sections 4, 7 through 14, and 26 of this act
 233 | may be cited as the "Florida Voting Rights Act" or the "FLVRA."
 234 | Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, and 15 through 25 of this act may be cited
 235 | as the "Expanding Voter Access Act" or the "EVAA." This act as a
 236 | whole may be cited as the "Harry T. Moore and Harriette V. Moore
 237 | Florida Voting Rights Act."

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

240 | 20.32 Florida Commission on Offender Review.—

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

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

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

254 3. The remaining amount of any restitution owed to a
255 victim as ordered by a court as a part of his or her sentence.

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

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

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

265 (b) The Department of State, the Department of
266 Corrections, clerks of the circuit courts, county comptrollers,
267 and the Board of Executive Clemency shall monthly provide to the
268 commission any information held by such governmental entity
269 which is required under paragraph (a).

270 (c) The Department of Management Services, acting through
271 the Florida Digital Service, shall provide any technical
272 assistance necessary for the commission to develop and maintain
273 the database. The Department of Management Services may adopt
274 rules to provide such assistance.

275 (d) By July 1, 2027, the commission shall make the

276 database available to the public on an Internet website. The
277 commission must update the database monthly with the information
278 received from each governmental entity under paragraph (b). The
279 commission shall publish on the website clear instructions that
280 a person who has been disqualified from voting based on a felony
281 conviction other than murder or a felony sexual offense may
282 follow to have his or her voting rights restored and to register
283 to vote.

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

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

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

295 3. The anticipated number of additional employees
296 necessary for:

297 a. The commission to develop and maintain the database.

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

300 c. The Florida Digital Service to provide the assistance

301 required under paragraph (c).

302 4. The anticipated cost to initially develop the database;
 303 annual cost to maintain the database; and annual appropriation
 304 required to fund the anticipated costs of the commission, each
 305 governmental entity, and the Florida Digital Service.

306 5. Any legal authority necessary for the commission to
 307 develop and maintain the database.

308 6. Draft legislation to implement the comprehensive plan.

309 (f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person who
 310 registers to vote or who votes in reasonable reliance on
 311 information contained in the database indicating that his or her
 312 voting rights have been restored pursuant to s. 4, Art. VI of
 313 the State Constitution has an affirmative right to register to
 314 vote and to vote and may not be charged with a violation of any
 315 criminal law of this state related to fraudulently voting or
 316 registering to vote.

317 (g) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
 318 subsection.

319 Section 3. Subsections (5) through (8), (9) through (17),
 320 (18), (19) through (31), (32) through (35), and (36) through
 321 (47) of section 97.021, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as
 322 subsections (7) through (10), (12) through (20), (23), (25)
 323 through (37), (39) through (42), and (44) through (55),
 324 respectively, and new subsections (5), (6), (11), (21), (22),
 325 (24), (38), and (43) are added to that section to read:

326 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except
327 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

328 (5) "Alternative method of election" means a method of
329 electing candidates to the legislative body of a local
330 government other than an at-large method of election or a
331 district-based method of election, and includes, but is not
332 limited to, ranked-choice voting, cumulative voting, and limited
333 voting.

334 (6) "At-large method of election" means any of the
335 following methods of electing members to the governing body of a
336 political subdivision, but does not include any alternative
337 method of election in which:

338 (a) The voters of the entire jurisdiction elect the
339 members to the governing body.

340 (b) The candidates are required to reside within given
341 areas of the jurisdiction and the voters of the entire
342 jurisdiction elect the members to the governing body.

343 (c) At-large elections are combined with district-based
344 elections.

345 (11) "District-based method of election" means a method of
346 electing candidates to the legislative body of a local
347 government in which, for counties or municipalities divided into
348 districts, a candidate for any such district is required to
349 reside in the district and candidates representing or seeking to
350 represent the district are voted upon by only the voters of the

351 district.

352 (21) "Government enforcement action" means any denial of
 353 administrative or judicial preclearance by the state or federal
 354 government, pending litigation filed by a state or federal
 355 entity, final judgment or adjudication, consent decree, or other
 356 similar formal action.

357 (22) "Legislative body" means the commission, council,
 358 school board, or other similar body, by whatever name known, of
 359 local government.

360 (24) "Local government" means an entity that administers
 361 elections or in which elections are conducted and includes a
 362 county, municipality, school district, special district, or
 363 supervisor of elections.

364 (38) "Protected class" means a class of citizens who are
 365 members of a race, color, or language minority group, as
 366 referenced in the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

367 (43) "Racially polarized voting" means voting in which the
 368 candidate or electoral choice preferred by protected class
 369 members diverges from the candidate or electoral choice
 370 preferred by voters who are not protected class members.

371 Section 4. Section 97.022, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

372 Section 5. Section 97.0291, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

373 Section 6. Section 97.0293, Florida Statutes, is created

374 to read:

375 97.0293 Prohibition on voter suppression and vote

376 dilution.—

377 (1) A local government, state agency, or state official
 378 may not implement a regulation, standard, practice, procedure,
 379 or policy regarding the administration of elections, or take or
 380 fail to take any action, that results or is intended to result
 381 in:

382 (a) A disparity among protected class members in electoral
 383 participation, access to voting opportunities, or ability to
 384 participate in the political process; or

385 (b) Based on the totality of the circumstances, an
 386 impairment of the opportunity or ability of a local government's
 387 protected class members to participate in the political process
 388 and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the
 389 outcome of elections.

390 (2) There is a rebuttable presumption that paragraph
 391 (1)(b) is violated in circumstances that include, but are not
 392 limited to, any of the following:

393 (a) A local government closes, moves, consolidates, or
 394 fails to provide polling places, early voting sites, or secure
 395 ballot intake stations, or reassigns voters to precincts or
 396 precincts to polling places, in a manner that impairs the right
 397 to vote of members of a protected class or results in a
 398 disparity in geographic access between members of a protected
 399 class and other members of the electorate.

400 (b) A local government selects or changes dates or hours

401 of an election or for early voting in a manner that impairs the
402 right to vote of members of a protected class, including, but
403 not limited to, making the change without proper notice as
404 required by law.

405 (c) A local government fails to provide voting or election
406 materials in languages other than English as required by law.

407 (d) A local government conducts general or primary
408 elections on dates that do not align with the dates of federal
409 or state general or primary elections, resulting in a disparity
410 in levels of participation between protected class voters and
411 other voters that exceeds any disparity in federal or state
412 general or primary elections.

413 (e) A special election to fill a vacancy is called on a
414 date that would reasonably result in a disparity in levels of
415 participation between protected class voters and other voters,
416 and there exists an alternate date in a reasonable timeframe in
417 which the disparity would be materially less significant.

418 (f) A special election to fill a vacancy is not scheduled
419 within a reasonable timeframe for an office in which protected
420 class voters would be able to elect candidates of their choice
421 or otherwise influence the outcome of elections, thus denying
422 representation to protected class voters.

423 (3) A local government may not employ a method of election
424 for any office that has the effect, or is motivated in part by
425 the intent, of impairing the opportunity or ability of protected

426 class members to participate in the political process and elect
427 candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of
428 elections as a result of diluting the vote of such protected
429 class members. This subsection is violated in any of the
430 following circumstances:

431 (a) A local government employs an at-large method of
432 election and:

433 1. Elections in the local government exhibit racially
434 polarized voting resulting in an impairment of the equal
435 opportunity or ability of protected class members to nominate or
436 elect candidates of their choice; or, based on the totality of
437 the circumstances, the equal opportunity or ability of members
438 of a protected class to nominate or elect candidates of their
439 choice is impaired; and

440 2. One or more new methods of election or modifications to
441 the existing method of election exist that the court could order
442 pursuant to s. 97.0298 that would likely mitigate the impairment
443 of the equal opportunity or ability of protected class members
444 to nominate or elect candidates of their choice. To the extent
445 that the new method of election or modification is a proposed
446 district-based plan that provides members of a protected class
447 with one or more reasonably configured districts in which they
448 would have an equal opportunity or ability to nominate or elect
449 candidates of their choice, it is not necessary to show that
450 members of a protected class comprise a majority in any such

451 district or districts.

452 (b) A local government employs a district-based or
 453 alternative method of election and:

454 1. Elections in the local government exhibit racially
 455 polarized voting resulting in an impairment of the equal
 456 opportunity or ability of protected class members to nominate or
 457 elect candidates of their choice; or, based on the totality of
 458 the circumstances, the equal opportunity or ability of members
 459 of a protected class to nominate or elect candidates of their
 460 choice is impaired; and

461 2. One or more new methods of election or modifications to
 462 the existing method of election exist that the court could order
 463 pursuant to s. 97.0298 that would likely mitigate the impairment
 464 of the equal opportunity or ability of protected class members
 465 to nominate or elect candidates of their choice. To the extent
 466 that the new method of election or modification is a proposed
 467 district-based plan that provides members of a protected class
 468 with one or more reasonably configured districts in which they
 469 would have an equal opportunity or ability to nominate or elect
 470 candidates of their choice, it is not necessary to show that
 471 members of a protected class comprise a majority in any such
 472 district or districts.

473 (4) For the purpose of determining whether racially
 474 polarized voting by protected class members in a local
 475 government occurs under this section, courts shall adhere to all

476 of the following guidelines:

477 (a) Elections conducted before the filing of a cause of
478 action are more probative than elections conducted after the
479 filing of a cause of action.

480 (b) Evidence concerning an election for any office in that
481 local government, including executive, legislative, judicial,
482 and other offices of that local government, is more probative
483 than evidence concerning an election for any other office, but
484 evidence concerning an election for another office may still be
485 afforded probative value.

486 (c) Statistical evidence is more probative than non-
487 statistical evidence.

488 (d) In the case of claims brought on behalf of two or more
489 protected classes that are politically cohesive in that local
490 government, members of those protected classes must be combined
491 to determine whether voting by those combined protected class
492 members is polarized from other electors. It is not necessary to
493 demonstrate that voting by members of each protected class is
494 separately polarized from other electors.

495 (e) Evidence concerning the causes of, or the reasons for,
496 the occurrence of racially polarized voting is not relevant to
497 the determination of whether racially polarized voting by
498 protected class members occurs, or whether candidates or
499 electoral choices preferred by protected class members would
500 usually be defeated. In particular, evidence concerning

501 alternate explanations for racially polarized voting patterns or
502 election outcomes, including, but not limited to, partisan
503 explanations, may not be considered.

504 (f) Evidence concerning whether subgroups of protected
505 class members have different voting patterns may not be
506 considered.

507 (g) Evidence concerning whether protected class electors
508 are geographically compact or concentrated may not be
509 considered, but may be considered when determining a remedy for
510 a violation of this section.

511 (5) For the purpose of determining whether, based on the
512 totality of the circumstances, an impairment of the right to
513 vote for any protected class member, or of the opportunity or
514 ability of protected class members to participate in the
515 political process and elect candidates of their choice or
516 otherwise influence the outcome of elections, has occurred,
517 courts may consider factors including, but not limited to, those
518 designated in this subsection. A particular combination or
519 number of these factors is not required for a court to determine
520 that an impairment occurred. The court shall consider a
521 particular factor only if and to the extent that evidence
522 pertaining to that factor is introduced. Evidence of these
523 factors is most probative if the evidence relates to the local
524 government in which the alleged violation occurred, but still
525 holds probative value if the evidence relates to the geographic

526 region in which that local government is located or to this
527 state. The factors that a court may consider include, but are
528 not limited to, the following:

529 (a) The history of discrimination.

530 (b) The extent to which protected class members have been
531 elected to office.

532 (c) Any action by the local government that may enhance
533 the dilutive effects of a method of election in the local
534 government. Such actions may include the use of any
535 qualification for voter eligibility or other prerequisite to
536 voting; any statute, ordinance, regulation, or other law
537 regarding the administration of elections; or any standard,
538 practice, procedure, or policy.

539 (d) The extent of any history of unequal access on the
540 part of protected class members or candidates to election
541 administration or campaign finance processes that determine
542 which candidates will receive access to the ballot or financial
543 or other support in a given election for an office of the local
544 government.

545 (e) The extent to which protected class members in the
546 local government or state have historically made expenditures as
547 defined in s. 106.011 at lower rates than other individuals.

548 (f) The extent to which protected class members vote at
549 lower rates than other voters.

550 (g) The extent to which protected class members are

551 disadvantaged or otherwise bear the effects of public or private
552 discrimination in areas that may hinder their ability to
553 participate effectively in the political process, such as
554 education, employment, health, criminal justice, housing,
555 transportation, land use, or environmental protection.

556 (h) The extent to which protected class members are
557 disadvantaged in other areas that may hinder their ability to
558 participate effectively in the political process.

559 (i) The use of overt or subtle racial appeals in political
560 campaigns, by government officials, or surrounding the adoption
561 or maintenance of a challenged practice.

562 (j) The extent to which candidates face hostility or
563 barriers while campaigning due to their membership in a
564 protected class.

565 (k) The lack of responsiveness by elected officials to the
566 particular needs of protected class members or a community of
567 protected class members.

568 (l) Whether the particular method of election, ordinance,
569 regulation, or other law regarding the administration of
570 elections, standard, practice, procedure, or policy was designed
571 to advance, and materially advances, a valid and substantiated
572 state interest.

573 (6) In determining whether a violation of this section has
574 occurred, a court may not consider any of the following factors:

575 (a) The total number or share of members of a protected

576 class on whom a challenged method of election, ordinance,
577 resolution, rule, policy, standard, regulation, procedure, or
578 law does not impose a material burden.

579 (b) The degree to which the challenged method of election,
580 ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, standard, regulation,
581 procedure, or law has a long pedigree or was in widespread use
582 at some earlier date.

583 (c) The use of an identical or similar challenged method
584 of election, ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, standard,
585 regulation, procedure, or law in another local government.

586 (d) The availability of other forms of voting unimpacted
587 by the challenged method of election, ordinance, resolution,
588 rule, policy, standard, regulation, procedure, or law to all
589 members of the electorate, including members of the protected
590 class.

591 (e) A prophylactic impact on potential criminal activity
592 by individual electors, if those crimes have not occurred in the
593 local government in substantial numbers, or if the connection
594 between the challenged policy and any claimed prophylactic
595 effect is not supported by substantial evidence.

596 (f) Mere invocation of interests in voter confidence or
597 prevention of fraud.

598 (g) A lack of evidence concerning the intent of electors,
599 elected officials, or public officials to discriminate against
600 protected class members.

601 (h) The fact that the challenged method of election,
 602 ordinance, resolution, rule, policy, standard, regulation,
 603 procedure, or law is authorized or mandated by any provision of
 604 general law or any special act, charter or home rule ordinance,
 605 or other enactment of the state or any local government.

606 (7) Before filing an action against a local government
 607 pursuant to this section, a prospective plaintiff must send by
 608 certified mail, return receipt requested, a Florida Voting
 609 Rights Act notification letter, hereinafter referred to as an
 610 "FLVRA notification letter," to the local government asserting
 611 that the local government may be in violation of this act.

612 (a) Except as noted in paragraph (e), a party may not file
 613 an action against a local government earlier than 50 days after
 614 sending an FLVRA notification letter to the local government.

615 (b) Before receiving an FLVRA notification letter, or not
 616 later than 50 days after any FLVRA notification letter is sent
 617 to a local government, a local government may adopt a Florida
 618 Voting Rights Act resolution, hereinafter referred to as an
 619 "FLVRA resolution," that does all of the following:

620 1. Identifies a potential violation of this section by the
 621 local government.

622 2. Identifies a specific remedy to the potential
 623 violation.

624 3. Affirms the local government's intention to enact and
 625 implement a remedy for a potential violation.

626 4. Sets forth specific measures the local government will
627 take to facilitate enactment and implementation of the remedy.

628 5. Provides a schedule for the enactment and
629 implementation of the remedy.

630 (c) Except as provided in paragraph (e), a party that has
631 sent an FLVRA notification letter may not file an action
632 pursuant to this section earlier than 90 days after the adoption
633 of an FLVRA notification letter.

634 (d) If the remedy identified in an FLVRA resolution is
635 barred by state or local law, or a legislative body of a local
636 government lacks authority under state or local law to enact or
637 implement a remedy identified in an FLVRA resolution within 90
638 days after the adoption of the FLVRA resolution, or if the local
639 government is a covered jurisdiction under s. 97.0296(3), the
640 local government may nonetheless enact and implement the remedy
641 identified in an FLVRA resolution upon approval of the FLVRA
642 Commission, which may only provide approval if the commission
643 finds that the local government may be in violation of this act,
644 the proposed remedy would address a potential violation, and
645 implementation of the proposed remedy is feasible. The approval
646 of a remedy by the FLVRA Commission does not bar an action to
647 challenge the remedy.

648 (e) If, pursuant to this subsection, a local government
649 enacts or implements a remedy or the FLVRA Commission approves a
650 proposed remedy, a party who sent a FLVRA notification letter

651 may submit a claim for reimbursement from the local government
652 for the costs associated with producing and sending the FLVRA
653 notification letter. The party shall submit the claim in writing
654 and substantiate the claim with financial documentation,
655 including a detailed invoice for any demography services or
656 analysis of voting patterns in the local government. If a party
657 and local government fail to agree to a reimbursement amount,
658 either the party or local government may file an action for a
659 declaratory judgment for a clarification of rights.

660 (f) Notwithstanding this subsection, a party may bring a
661 cause of action for a violation of this section under any of the
662 following circumstances:

663 1. The action is commenced within 1 year after the
664 adoption of the challenged method of election, ordinance,
665 resolution, rule, policy, standard, regulation, procedure, or
666 law.

667 2. The prospect of obtaining relief under this section
668 would be futile.

669 3. Another party has already submitted an FLVRA
670 notification letter under this subsection alleging a
671 substantially similar violation and that party is eligible to
672 bring a cause of action under this subsection.

673 4. Following the party's submission of an FLVRA
674 notification letter, the local government has adopted an FLVRA
675 resolution that identifies a remedy that does not remedy the

676 violation identified in the party's FLVRA notification letter.

677 5. The party is seeking preliminary relief with respect to
 678 an upcoming election in accordance with s. 97.0298.

679 (8) A local government may not assert the doctrine of
 680 laches as a defense to a claim brought under this section. A
 681 local government may not assert that a plaintiff has failed to
 682 comply with any notice, exhaustion, or other procedural
 683 requirements under general law other than the requirements in
 684 this section as a defense to a claim brought under this section.

685 (9) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this
 686 section, any entity whose membership includes individuals
 687 aggrieved by a violation of this section, any entity whose
 688 mission would be frustrated by a violation of this section, any
 689 entity that would expend resources in order to fulfill its
 690 mission as a result of a violation of this section, the Attorney
 691 General, or the FLVRA Commission may file an action alleging a
 692 violation of this section to enforce compliance with this
 693 section. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules
 694 of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit. Members of
 695 two or more protected classes that are politically cohesive in a
 696 local government may jointly file an action.

697 Section 7. Section 97.02935, Florida Statutes, is created
 698 to read:

699 97.02935 Language access.-

700 (1) As used in this section, the term "limited English

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

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

711 (3) The FLVRA Commission shall find that a significant and
712 substantial need exists if, based on the best available data,
713 which may include information from the United States Census
714 Bureau's American Community Survey or data of comparable quality
715 collected by a governmental entity:

716 (a) More than 2 percent, but not fewer than 200, of the
717 citizens of voting age of a local government speak a language
718 other than English and are limited English proficient
719 individuals.

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

723 (c) In the case of a local government that contains any
724 part of a Native American reservation, more than 2 percent of
725 the Native American citizens of voting age within the Native

726 American reservation are proficient in a language other than
727 English and are limited English proficient individuals. As used
728 in this subsection, the term "Native American" includes any
729 person recognized by the United States Census Bureau or the
730 state as "American Indian."

731 (4) The FLVRA Commission must annually publish on its
732 website a list of each local government in which assistance in
733 voting and elections in a language other than English must be
734 provided, and each designated language in which such assistance
735 must be provided in each local government. The FLVRA
736 Commission's determinations under this section are effective
737 upon publication. The FLVRA Commission must distribute this
738 information to each affected local government.

739 (5) A local government must provide assistance in voting
740 and elections, including related materials, in any language
741 designated by the FLVRA Commission under subsection (4) to
742 voters in the local government who are limited English
743 proficient individuals.

744 (6) Whenever the FLVRA Commission determines, pursuant to
745 this section, that language assistance must be provided in a
746 local government, the local government must provide competent
747 assistance in each designated language and provide related
748 materials in English, and in each designated language, including
749 voter registration or voting notices, forms, instructions,
750 assistance, ballots, or other materials or information relating

751 to the electoral process, except in the case of a language that
752 is oral or unwritten, including historically unwritten as may be
753 the case for some Native Americans, a local government may
754 provide only oral instructions, assistance, or other information
755 relating to the electoral process in such language. All
756 materials provided in a designated language must be of an equal
757 quality to the corresponding English materials. All provided
758 translations must convey the intent and essential meaning of the
759 original text or communication and may not rely solely on an
760 automatic translation service. Whenever available, language
761 assistance must also include live translation.

762 (7) The FLVRA Commission must adopt rules to establish a
763 review process under which the FLVRA Commission will determine
764 whether a significant and substantial need exists in a local
765 government for a language to be designated for the provision of
766 assistance in voting and elections. This process must include,
767 at a minimum, all of the following:

768 (a) An opportunity to request that the FLVRA Commission
769 consider designating a language in a local government which must
770 be made available to any voter, organization whose membership
771 includes or is likely to include voters, organization whose
772 mission would be frustrated by a local government's failure to
773 provide language assistance, or organization that would expend
774 resources in order to fulfill the organization's mission as a
775 result of such a failure.

776 (b) An opportunity for public comment.
 777 (c) That upon receipt of any such request and
 778 consideration of any public comment, the FLVRA Commission may,
 779 in accordance with the process for making this determination,
 780 designate any language in a local government.
 781 (8) Any individual aggrieved by a violation of this
 782 section, any entity whose membership includes individuals
 783 aggrieved by a violation of this section, any entity whose
 784 mission would be frustrated by a violation of this section, any
 785 entity that would expend resources in order to fulfill its
 786 mission as a result of a violation of this section, the Attorney
 787 General, or the FLVRA Commission may file an action alleging a
 788 violation of this section. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to
 789 the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial
 790 Circuit.
 791 Section 8. Section 97.0294, Florida Statutes, is created
 792 to read:
 793 97.0294 Florida Voting and Elections Database and
 794 Institute.—
 795 (1) The FLVRA Commission shall enter into an agreement
 796 with one or more universities to create the Florida Voting and
 797 Elections Database and Institute, hereinafter referred to as the
 798 "database and institute," to maintain and administer a central
 799 repository of elections and voting data available to the public
 800 from all local governments in this state and to foster, pursue,

801 and sponsor research on existing laws and best practices in
802 voting and elections. The parties to the agreement shall enter
803 into a memorandum of understanding that includes the process for
804 selecting the director of the database and institute.

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

809 (a) Conduct classes both for credit and noncredit.

810 (b) Organize interdisciplinary groups of scholars to
811 research voting and elections.

812 (c) Conduct seminars relating to voting and elections.

813 (d) Establish a nonpartisan centralized database in order
814 to collect, archive, and make publicly available at no cost an
815 accessible database pertaining to elections, voter registration,
816 and ballot access.

817 (e) Assist in the dissemination of election data to the
818 public.

819 (f) Publish books and periodicals as the database and
820 institute considers appropriate on voting and elections.

821 (g) Provide nonpartisan technical assistance to local
822 governments, scholars, and the general public seeking to use the
823 resources of the database and institute.

824 (3) The database and institute shall maintain in an
825 electronic format all relevant election and voting data and

826 records for at least the previous 12-year period. The data and
827 records maintained by the database and institute must be posted
828 online and made available to the public at no cost. The data and
829 records that must be maintained include, but are not limited to,
830 all of the following:

831 (a) Estimates of the total population, voting age
832 population, and citizen voting age population by racial, color,
833 or language minority group and disability status, aggregated by
834 precinct level, on an annual basis, for every local government
835 in this state, based on data from the United States Census
836 Bureau's American Community Survey or data of comparable quality
837 collected by a public office. The estimates shall be prepared by
838 applying the most advanced, peer-reviewed, and validated
839 methodologies available.

840 (b) Election results, aggregated by precinct level, for
841 every federal, state, and local election held in every local
842 government in this state.

843 (c) Contemporaneous voter registration lists, voter
844 history files, election day polling places, and absentee voter
845 ballot drop box locations for every election in every local
846 government in this state. Absentee voter ballot drop box
847 locations must be made available in a geospatial file format.

848 (d) Contemporaneous maps or other documentation of the
849 configuration of precincts, which must be made available in a
850 geospatial file format.

851 (e) Election day polling places, including, but not
852 limited to, lists of precincts assigned to each polling place,
853 if applicable. Election day polling places must be made
854 available in a geospatial file format.

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

857 (g) A current record, updated to the current month, of
858 persons eligible to register to vote with prior criminal
859 convictions whose eligibility has been restored in compliance
860 with s. 98.0751.

861 (h) Any other data that the director of the database and
862 institute considers necessary to maintain in furtherance of the
863 purposes of the database and institute.

864 (4) All state agencies and local governments shall timely
865 provide the director of the database and institute with any
866 information he or she requests. Within 90 days after an
867 election, each local government shall transmit to the database
868 and institute copies of all of the following:

869 (a) Election results, aggregated by precinct level.

870 (b) Contemporaneous voter registration lists.

871 (c) Voter history files.

872 (d) Maps, descriptions, and shapefiles for election
873 districts.

874 (e) Lists of election day polling places, shapefiles, or
875 descriptions of the precincts assigned to each election day

876 polling place.

877 (f) Any other data as requested by the database and
878 institute.

879 (5) At least annually, or upon the request of the director
880 of the database and institute, any state entity identified by
881 the director as possessing data, statistics, or other
882 information that the database and institute requires to carry
883 out its duties and responsibilities shall provide such data,
884 statistics, or information to the database and institute.

885 (6) If a state agency or local government fails to provide
886 any information to the database and institute as required by
887 this section, any individual aggrieved by such a violation, any
888 entity whose membership includes individuals aggrieved by such a
889 violation, any entity whose mission would be frustrated by such
890 a violation, any entity that would expend resources in order to
891 fulfill its mission as a result of such a violation, the
892 director of the database and institute, the Attorney General, or
893 the FLVRA Commission may file an action to enforce compliance
894 with this section. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the
895 Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial
896 Circuit.

897 (7) Within 90 days after the end of each state fiscal
898 year, the database and institute shall publish and make
899 available to the public a report relating to its priorities and
900 finances.

901 (8) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the data
 902 and records maintained by the database and institute are valid.

903 Section 9. Section 97.0295, Florida Statutes, is created
 904 to read:

905 97.0295 Florida Voting Rights Act Commission.-

906 (1) The Florida Voting Rights Act Commission, hereinafter
 907 referred to as the "FLVRA Commission," a commission as defined
 908 in s. 20.03, is created in the department. The FLVRA Commission
 909 is responsible for administering this act.

910 (2) The FLVRA Commission shall consist of five
 911 commissioners, each of whom shall serve staggered 5-year terms.
 912 Commissioners shall be compensated for their actual time spent
 913 on FLVRA Commission business at an hourly rate based on the rate
 914 equivalent to an assistant attorney general.

915 (a) A nominating committee shall be formed to identify
 916 qualified candidates to serve as members of the FLVRA
 917 Commission. The nominating committee shall be comprised of
 918 nominating organizations, to be selected as follows:

919 1. Organizations may apply with the Secretary of State to
 920 be certified as a nominating organization for 5-year terms, at
 921 which point organizations may be recertified. The Secretary of
 922 State must certify any organization that applies to be a
 923 nominating organization if it meets all of the following
 924 requirements:

925 a. Demonstrated commitment to the purpose of the FLVRA

926 Commission and securing the voting rights of protected class
927 members as defined by the FLVRA Commission, including, but not
928 limited to, reference to such protected class members in its
929 mission statement, involvement in numerous voting rights cases
930 brought within the state on behalf of members of protected
931 classes, or involvement in advocacy in support of the FLVRA
932 Commission.

933 b. Registered as a nonprofit corporation with the
934 Secretary of State.

935 c. In continuous operation as a nonprofit organization
936 under s. 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or as a
937 nonprofit corporation registered with the Secretary of State for
938 at least 20 years.

939 2. If the Secretary of State fails to timely certify an
940 organization that satisfies these qualifications following the
941 organization's application to be certified as a nominating
942 organization, such organization may file an action against the
943 Secretary of State for a declaratory judgment certifying the
944 organization as a nominating organization.

945 3. A nominating organization may be removed for cause by a
946 majority vote of all of the nominating organizations.

947 4. If there are fewer than 16 nominating organizations
948 certified by the Secretary of State, the nominating committee
949 shall consist of all of the nominating organizations. If there
950 are 16 or more nominating organizations certified by the

951 Secretary of State, the nominating committee shall consist of 15
952 nominating organizations to be randomly selected from all
953 nominating organizations on an annual basis.

954 5. The nominating committee shall select its own chair to
955 preside over meetings and voting.

956 (b) Commissioners shall be selected as follows:

957 1. The nominating committee shall solicit applications to
958 serve on the FLVRA Commission from across the state.

959 Commissioners must meet all of the following criteria:

960 a. Be a Florida resident.

961 b. Be a member of The Florida Bar with at least 5 years of
962 legal experience.

963 c. Have demonstrated experience representing or advocating
964 on behalf of members of protected classes.

965 d. Have not served in elected office within the previous 5
966 years.

967 e. Not currently serve in any government office or hold
968 any political party office.

969 2. The nominating committee shall maintain a qualified
970 candidate pool consisting of 30 qualified candidates to serve on
971 the FLVRA Commission. Individuals shall only be added to the
972 qualified candidate pool upon a three-fifths vote of the
973 nominating committee. The size of the qualified candidate pool
974 may be increased or decreased from 30 qualified individuals by a
975 three-fifths vote of the nominating committee.

976 3. All members of the FLVRA Commission shall be randomly
 977 selected from the qualified candidate pool. Upon the initial
 978 formation of the FLVRA Commission, five commissioners shall be
 979 randomly selected from the qualified candidate pool and randomly
 980 assigned to term lengths of 5 years, 4 years, 3 years, 2 years,
 981 and 1 year. At least 60 days before the conclusion of each
 982 commissioner's term, a new commissioner shall be randomly
 983 selected from the qualified candidate pool to serve a 5-year
 984 term upon the conclusion of the current commissioner's term.
 985 Within 30 days after a vacancy occurs on the FLVRA Commission, a
 986 new commissioner shall be randomly selected from the qualified
 987 candidate pool to complete the vacant term.

988 (3) In any action or investigation to enforce this act,
 989 the FLVRA Commission may subpoena witnesses; administer oaths;
 990 examine individuals under oath; determine material facts; and
 991 compel production of records, books, papers, contracts, and
 992 other documents in accordance with the ordinary rules of civil
 993 procedure.

994 (4) The FLVRA Commission may hire staff and make
 995 expenditures as necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

996 (5) The FLVRA Commission may adopt rules to administer
 997 this act.

998 Section 10. Section 97.0296, Florida Statutes, is created
 999 to read:

1000 97.0296 Preclearance.-

1001 (1) The enactment or implementation of a covered policy by
 1002 a covered jurisdiction is subject to preclearance by the FLVRA
 1003 Commission.

1004 (2) A covered policy includes any new or modified
 1005 qualification for voter registration, prerequisite to voting, or
 1006 ordinance, regulation, standard, practice, procedure, or policy
 1007 concerning:

1008 (a) Districting or redistricting.

1009 (b) Method of election.

1010 (c) Form of government.

1011 (d) Annexation, incorporation, dissolution, consolidation,
 1012 or division of a local government.

1013 (e) Removal of individuals from registry lists or
 1014 enrollment lists and other activities concerning any such list.

1015 (f) Hours of any early voting site, or location or number
 1016 of early voting sites, polling places, or secure ballot intake
 1017 station.

1018 (g) Assignment of voting precincts to polling place or
 1019 secure ballot intake station locations.

1020 (h) Assistance offered to protected class members.

1021 (i) Any additional subject matter identified by the FLVRA
 1022 Commission pursuant to a rule adopted by the FLVRA Commission,
 1023 if the FLVRA Commission determines that any qualification for
 1024 voter registration, prerequisite to voting, or ordinance,
 1025 regulation, standard, practice, procedure, or policy concerning

1026 such subject matter may have the effect of diminishing the right
1027 to vote of any protected class member or have the effect of
1028 violating this act.

1029 (3) A covered jurisdiction includes all of the following:

1030 (a) Any local government that, within the previous 25
1031 years, has been subject to any court order, government
1032 enforcement action, court-approved consent decree, or other
1033 settlement in which the local government conceded liability,
1034 based upon a violation of this act, the federal Voting Rights
1035 Act of 1965, the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States
1036 Constitution, a voting-related violation of the Fourteenth
1037 Amendment to the United States Constitution, or violation of any
1038 other state or federal election law based upon discrimination
1039 against members of a protected class.

1040 (b) Any local government that, within the previous 25
1041 years, has been subject to any court order, government
1042 enforcement action, court-approved consent decree, or other
1043 settlement in which the local government conceded liability,
1044 based upon a violation of any state or federal civil rights law
1045 or the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
1046 concerning discrimination against members of a protected class.

1047 (c) Any local government that, during the prior 3 years,
1048 has failed to comply with that local government's obligations to
1049 provide data or information to the statewide database pursuant
1050 to s. 97.0294.

1051 (d) Any local government that, within the previous 25
1052 years, was found to have enacted or implemented a covered policy
1053 without obtaining preclearance for such covered policy pursuant
1054 to this section.

1055 (e) Any local government that contains at least 1,000
1056 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of
1057 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the
1058 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,
1059 in any year in the previous 10 years, the percentage of voters
1060 of any protected class in a local government that participated
1061 in any general election for any local government office is at
1062 least 10 percentage points lower than the percentage of all
1063 voters in the local government that participated in such
1064 election.

1065 (f) Any local government that contains at least 1,000
1066 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of
1067 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the
1068 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,
1069 in any year in the previous 10 years, the percentage of eligible
1070 voters of that protected class who were registered to vote was
1071 at least 10 percentage points lower than the percentage of all
1072 eligible voters in the local government who were registered to
1073 vote.

1074 (g) Any county that contains at least 1,000 eligible
1075 voters of any protected class, or in which members of any

1076 protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the eligible
 1077 voter population of the local government, and in which, in any
 1078 year in the previous 10 years, the arrest rate among members of
 1079 such protected class exceeds the arrest rate among the
 1080 population of the local government as a whole by at least 10
 1081 percentage points.

1082 (h) Any local government that contains at least 1,000
 1083 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of
 1084 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the
 1085 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,
 1086 in any year in the previous 10 years, based on data made
 1087 available by the United States Census, the dissimilarity index
 1088 of such protected class, calculated using census tracts, is in
 1089 excess of 50 with respect to the race, color, or language-
 1090 minority group that comprises a plurality within the local
 1091 government.

1092 (i) Any school district that contains at least 1,000
 1093 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of
 1094 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the
 1095 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,
 1096 in any year in the previous 10 years, the graduation rate of
 1097 such protected class is lower than the graduation rate of the
 1098 entire district student population by at least 10 percentage
 1099 points.

1100 (j) Any local government that contains at least 1,000

1101 eligible voters of any protected class, or in which members of
1102 any protected class constitute at least 10 percent of the
1103 eligible voter population of the local government, and in which,
1104 in any year in the previous 10 years, the poverty rate among
1105 members of such protected class exceeds the poverty rate among
1106 the population of the local government as a whole by at least 10
1107 percentage points.

1108 (4) The FLVRA Commission must annually determine which
1109 local governments are covered jurisdictions and publish a list
1110 of these local governments online.

1111 (5) If a covered jurisdiction seeks preclearance from the
1112 FLVRA Commission for the adoption or implementation of any
1113 covered policy, the covered jurisdiction must submit the covered
1114 policy to the FLVRA Commission in writing and may obtain
1115 preclearance in accordance with this subsection.

1116 (a) The FLVRA Commission shall review the covered policy
1117 submitted for preclearance, including any public comment, and
1118 make a determination to grant or deny preclearance. The covered
1119 jurisdiction shall bear the burden of proof in any preclearance
1120 determinations.

1121 (b) The FLVRA Commission may only deny preclearance to a
1122 submitted covered policy if the commission determines that the
1123 covered policy is likely to diminish the opportunity or ability
1124 of protected class members to participate in the political
1125 process and elect candidates of their choice or otherwise

1126 influence the outcome of elections or that the covered policy is
1127 likely to violate this act. If the FLVRA Commission denies
1128 preclearance, the applicable covered jurisdiction may not enact
1129 or implement the covered policy. The FLVRA Commission shall
1130 provide written explanation of any denial.

1131 (c) If the FLVRA Commission grants preclearance to a
1132 covered policy, the covered jurisdiction may immediately enact
1133 or implement the covered policy. A determination by the FLVRA
1134 Commission to grant preclearance may not be admissible in or
1135 otherwise considered by a court in any subsequent action
1136 challenging the covered policy. If the FLVRA Commission fails to
1137 deny or grant preclearance to a submitted covered policy within
1138 the time period sets forth in paragraph (d), the covered policy
1139 is deemed precleared, and the covered jurisdiction may enact or
1140 implement the covered policy.

1141 (d) If a covered policy concerns the method of election
1142 for a legislative body, districting or redistricting, the number
1143 of seats on the legislative body, or annexation, incorporation,
1144 dissolution, consolidation, or division of a local government,
1145 the FLVRA Commission shall review the covered policy, including
1146 any public comment, and make a determination to deny or grant
1147 preclearance within 60 days after the submission of the covered
1148 policy. The FLVRA Commission may invoke up to two extensions of
1149 90 days each to make such a determination. For all other covered
1150 policies, the FLVRA Commission shall review the covered policy,

1151 including any public comment, and make a determination to deny
1152 or grant preclearance within 30 days after the submission of the
1153 covered policy. The FLVRA Commission may invoke an extension of
1154 60 days to make such a determination.

1155 (e) Any denial of preclearance under this section may be
1156 appealed only by the covered jurisdiction, and shall be filed in
1157 the Second Judicial Circuit.

1158 (6) If any covered jurisdiction enacts or implements a
1159 covered policy without obtaining preclearance for such covered
1160 policy in accordance with this section, any individual aggrieved
1161 by such a violation, any entity whose membership includes
1162 individuals aggrieved by such a violation, any entity whose
1163 mission would be frustrated by such a violation, any entity that
1164 would expend resources in order to fulfill its mission as a
1165 result of such a violation, the director of the database and
1166 institute, the Attorney General, or the FLVRA Commission may
1167 file an action to enjoin enactment or implementation and seek
1168 sanctions against the covered jurisdiction for violations of
1169 this section. Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida
1170 Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit. A
1171 claim under this subsection does not preclude, bar, or limit any
1172 other claims that may be brought regarding the covered policy in
1173 any way, including claims brought under other sections of this
1174 act.

1175 (7) If the FLVRA Commission approves preclearance to a

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1176 covered policy in violation of this section, identifies or fails
1177 to identify a list of local governments that are covered
1178 jurisdictions in violation of this section, or otherwise fails
1179 to properly implement any of the provisions of this section, any
1180 individual aggrieved by such a violation, any entity whose
1181 membership includes individuals aggrieved by such a violation,
1182 any entity whose mission would be frustrated by such a
1183 violation, or any entity that would expend resources in order to
1184 fulfill its mission as a result of such a violation may file an
1185 action seeking appropriate relief, including, but not limited
1186 to, injunctive relief, against the FLVRA Commission or any other
1187 party as the court deems necessary to effectuate this section.
1188 Such a claim may be filed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil
1189 Procedure or in the Second Judicial Circuit. A claim under this
1190 subsection does not preclude, bar, or limit any other claims
1191 that may be brought regarding any covered policy in any way,
1192 including claims brought under other sections of this act.

1193 (8) The FLVRA Commission shall adopt rules to effectuate
1194 this section, including regulations concerning the content of
1195 and procedure for preclearance submissions, procedures for
1196 public comment and transparency regarding preclearance
1197 determinations, and procedures for expedited and emergency
1198 preclearance determinations, which may deviate from the
1199 timelines provided in paragraph (5) (d), provided that such
1200 preclearance determinations are preliminary.

1201 Section 11. Section 97.0297, Florida Statutes, is created
 1202 to read:

1203 97.0297 Democracy canon.—

1204 (1) Any provision of the Florida Election Code or any
 1205 regulation, charter, home rule ordinance, or other enactment of
 1206 the state or any local government relating to the right to vote
 1207 must be construed liberally in favor of all of the following:

1208 (a) Protecting the right to cast a ballot and make the
 1209 ballot valid.

1210 (b) Ensuring eligible individuals seeking voter
 1211 registration are not impaired in being registered.

1212 (c) Ensuring voters are not impaired in voting, including,
 1213 but not limited to, having their votes counted.

1214 (d) Making the fundamental right to vote more accessible
 1215 to eligible voters.

1216 (e) Ensuring equitable access for protected class members
 1217 to opportunities to be registered to vote and to vote.

1218 (2) It is the policy of the state to promote the free flow
 1219 of documents and information concerning the intent of public
 1220 officials in actions concerning the right to vote. Accordingly,
 1221 in any action under this act, the federal Voting Rights Act of
 1222 1965, or a voting-related claim under the State Constitution or
 1223 the United States Constitution, no sovereign, governmental,
 1224 executive, legislative, or deliberative immunities and
 1225 privileges, including any evidentiary privileges, may be

1226 asserted. However, this section does not affect attorney-client
 1227 or attorney work-product privileges.

1228 Section 12. Section 97.0298, Florida Statutes, is created
 1229 to read:

1230 97.0298 Remedies.—

1231 (1) Whenever a court finds a violation of any provision of
 1232 this act, such court shall order appropriate remedies that are
 1233 tailored to address such violation and to ensure protected class
 1234 members have equitable opportunities to fully participate in the
 1235 political process which can be implemented in a manner that will
 1236 not unduly disrupt the administration of an ongoing or imminent
 1237 election. Appropriate remedies may include, but need not be
 1238 limited to:

1239 (a) A district-based method of election.

1240 (b) An alternative method of election.

1241 (c) New or revised districting or redistricting plans.

1242 (d) Eliminating staggered elections so that all members of
 1243 the legislative body are elected at the same time.

1244 (e) Reasonably increasing the size of the legislative
 1245 body.

1246 (f) Additional voting days or hours.

1247 (g) Additional polling places and early voting sites, as
 1248 applicable.

1249 (h) Additional opportunities to return ballots.

1250 (i) Holding special elections.

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- 1251 (j) Expanding opportunities for voter registration.
- 1252 (k) Additional voter education.
- 1253 (l) Restoring or adding individuals to the statewide voter
1254 registration system.
- 1255 (m) Retaining jurisdiction for such period of time as the
1256 court deems appropriate.
- 1257 (2) The court shall consider remedies proposed by any
1258 parties to the action or by interested nonparties. The court may
1259 not give deference or priority to a proposed remedy because it
1260 is proposed by the state or any local government.
- 1261 (3) If necessary to remedy a violation of this act, the
1262 court may require a local government to implement a remedy that
1263 is inconsistent with any other provision of general law,
1264 including any special act, charter or home rule ordinance, or
1265 other enactment of the state or any local government.
- 1266 (4) Notwithstanding the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure
1267 or any other provision of general law, the court shall grant a
1268 temporary injunction and any other preliminary relief requested
1269 under this section with respect to an upcoming election if the
1270 court determines that the party is likely to succeed on the
1271 merits and it is possible to implement an appropriate temporary
1272 remedy that would resolve the violation alleged under this
1273 section before the election.
- 1274 (5) In any action to enforce this act, the court must
1275 award reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs, including,

1276 but not limited to, expert witness fees and expenses, to the
 1277 party that filed an action, other than the state or any local
 1278 government, and that prevailed in such action. The party that
 1279 filed the action is deemed to have prevailed when, as a result
 1280 of litigation, the party against whom the action was filed has
 1281 yielded some or all of the relief sought in the action. In the
 1282 case of a party against whom an action was filed and who
 1283 prevailed, the court may not award the party any costs unless
 1284 the court finds the action to be frivolous, unreasonable, or
 1285 without foundation.

1286 Section 13. Section 97.0299, Florida Statutes, is created
 1287 to read:

1288 97.0299 Voter education fund.—

1289 (1) There is established a voter education fund to be
 1290 administered by the FLVRA Commission.

1291 (2) The FLVRA Commission may expend moneys from the fund
 1292 for any of the following purposes:

1293 (a) Developing and distributing educational materials on
 1294 voting rights and the voting process, including information on
 1295 voter registration, vote-by-mail, and polling place
 1296 accessibility.

1297 (b) Conducting public education campaigns to inform voters
 1298 about changes to voting laws, procedures, or polling locations,
 1299 and to counteract false or misleading information about voting.

1300 (c) Providing training and resources to local election

1301 officials, poll workers, and volunteers on how to ensure fair
1302 and equitable access to the ballot for all eligible voters.

1303 (d) Establishing and maintaining voter hotlines, online
1304 portals, or other mechanisms for voters to report incidents of
1305 voter intimidation, suppression, or discrimination, and for
1306 election officials to respond to such reports.

1307 (e) Supporting voter outreach efforts targeted at
1308 historically underrepresented communities, including, but not
1309 limited to, members of protected classes, low-income
1310 individuals, youth, and people with disabilities.

1311 (f) Providing grants to community-based organizations,
1312 civic groups, and civil rights organizations to conduct voter
1313 education and mobilization activities, such as voter
1314 registration drives, candidate forums, and get-out-the-vote
1315 campaigns, or to engage in nonpartisan advocacy, litigation, or
1316 other legal actions to protect voting rights, challenge
1317 discriminatory voting practices, or seek redress for victims of
1318 voter suppression or intimidation.

1319 (g) Partnering with schools and universities to develop
1320 and implement nonpartisan curricula on civic engagement, voting,
1321 and the importance of participating in the democratic process.

1322 (h) Funding research and evaluation projects to assess the
1323 impact of voter education and outreach efforts on voter
1324 participation and civic engagement, and to identify best
1325 practices for improving access to the ballot.

1326 Section 14. Section 97.0556, Florida Statutes, is created
 1327 to read:

1328 97.0556 Same-day voter registration.—A person who meets
 1329 the qualifications to register to vote in s. 97.041 and who
 1330 provides the information required for the statewide voter
 1331 registration application in s. 97.052 may register at an early
 1332 voting site or at his or her polling place and immediately
 1333 thereafter cast a ballot.

1334 Section 15. Section 97.057, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1335 to read:

1336 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway
 1337 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

1338 (1) (a) Each of the following serves as an application ~~The~~
 1339 ~~Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall provide~~
 1340 ~~the opportunity to preregister to vote, register to vote, or to~~
 1341 ~~update a voter registration record~~ when submitted to the
 1342 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles ~~to each~~
 1343 ~~individual who comes to an office of that department to:~~

1344 1. (a) An application for or renewal of ~~Apply for or renew~~
 1345 a driver license;

1346 2. (b) An application for or renewal of ~~Apply for or renew~~
 1347 an identification card pursuant to chapter 322; or

1348 3. (c) An application for a change of ~~an~~ address on an
 1349 existing driver license or identification card.

1350 (b) Unless the applicant declines to register or

1351 preregister to vote, he or she is deemed to have consented to
1352 the use of the signature from his or her driver license or
1353 identification card application for voter registration purposes.

1354 (2) An application for a driver license or an
1355 identification card must include a voter registration component.
1356 The voter registration component must be approved by the
1357 Department of State and must contain all of the following:

1358 (a) The minimum amount of information necessary to prevent
1359 duplicate voter registrations and to preserve the ability of the
1360 department and supervisors of elections to assess the
1361 eligibility of the applicant and administer voter registration
1362 and other provisions of this code.

1363 (b) A statement setting forth voting eligibility
1364 requirements.

1365 (c) An explanation that the applicant is consenting to the
1366 use of his or her signature from the applicant's driver license
1367 or identification card application for voter registration
1368 purposes. By consenting to the use of his or her signature, the
1369 applicant is deemed to have subscribed to the oath required by
1370 s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051 and to
1371 have sworn and affirmed that the voter registration information
1372 contained in the application is true under penalty for false
1373 swearing pursuant to s. 104.011.

1374 (d) An option that allows the applicant to choose or
1375 update a party affiliation; otherwise, an applicant who is

1376 initially registering to vote and does not exercise such option
 1377 must be sent a notice by the supervisor of elections in
 1378 accordance with s. 97.053(5)(b).

1379 (e) An option that allows the applicant to decline to
 1380 register to vote or preregister to vote. The Department of
 1381 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall note any such
 1382 declination in its records and forward the declination to the
 1383 Department of State. Any declination may be used only for voter
 1384 registration purposes and is confidential and exempt from public
 1385 records requirements as provided in s. 97.0585.

1386 (3) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 1387 shall:

1388 (a) Develop a voter registration component for
 1389 applications which meets the requirements set forth in
 1390 subsection (2).

1391 (b) Electronically transmit the voter registration
 1392 component of an applicant's driver license or identification
 1393 card application to the Department of State within 24 hours
 1394 after receipt. Upon receipt of the voter registration component,
 1395 the Department of State shall provide the information to the
 1396 supervisor of elections of the county in which the applicant is
 1397 registering or preregistering to vote or updating his or her
 1398 voter registration record.

1399 ~~(2) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles~~
 1400 ~~shall:~~

1401 ~~(a) Notify each individual, orally or in writing, that:~~
 1402 ~~1. Information gathered for the completion of a driver~~
 1403 ~~license or identification card application, renewal, or change~~
 1404 ~~of address can be automatically transferred to a voter~~
 1405 ~~registration application;~~
 1406 ~~2. If additional information and a signature are provided,~~
 1407 ~~the voter registration application will be completed and sent to~~
 1408 ~~the proper election authority;~~
 1409 ~~3. Information provided can also be used to update a voter~~
 1410 ~~registration record;~~
 1411 ~~4. All declinations will remain confidential and may be~~
 1412 ~~used only for voter registration purposes; and~~
 1413 ~~5. The particular driver license office in which the~~
 1414 ~~person applies to register to vote or updates a voter~~
 1415 ~~registration record will remain confidential and may be used~~
 1416 ~~only for voter registration purposes.~~
 1417 ~~(b) Require a driver license examiner to inquire orally~~
 1418 ~~or, if the applicant is hearing impaired, inquire in writing~~
 1419 ~~whether the applicant wishes to register to vote or update a~~
 1420 ~~voter registration record during the completion of a driver~~
 1421 ~~license or identification card application, renewal, or change~~
 1422 ~~of address.~~
 1423 ~~1. If the applicant chooses to register to vote or to~~
 1424 ~~update a voter registration record:~~
 1425 ~~a. All applicable information received by the Department~~

1426 ~~of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the course of filling~~
1427 ~~out the forms necessary under subsection (1) must be transferred~~
1428 ~~to a voter registration application.~~

1429 ~~b. The additional necessary information must be obtained~~
1430 ~~by the driver license examiner and must not duplicate any~~
1431 ~~information already obtained while completing the forms required~~
1432 ~~under subsection (1).~~

1433 ~~e. A voter registration application with all of the~~
1434 ~~applicant's voter registration information required to establish~~
1435 ~~the applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041 must be~~
1436 ~~presented to the applicant to review and verify the voter~~
1437 ~~registration information received and provide an electronic~~
1438 ~~signature affirming the accuracy of the information provided.~~

1439 ~~2. If the applicant declines to register to vote, update~~
1440 ~~the applicant's voter registration record, or change the~~
1441 ~~applicant's address by either orally declining or by failing to~~
1442 ~~sign the voter registration application, the Department of~~
1443 ~~Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must note such declination on~~
1444 ~~its records and shall forward the declination to the statewide~~
1445 ~~voter registration system.~~

1446 ~~(3) For the purpose of this section, the Department of~~
1447 ~~Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, with the approval of the~~
1448 ~~Department of State, shall prescribe:~~

1449 ~~(a) A voter registration application that is the same in~~
1450 ~~content, format, and size as the uniform statewide voter~~

1451 ~~registration application prescribed under s. 97.052; and~~
 1452 ~~(b) A form that will inform applicants under subsection~~
 1453 ~~(1) of the information contained in paragraph (2) (a).~~
 1454 ~~(4) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles~~
 1455 ~~must electronically transmit completed voter registration~~
 1456 ~~applications within 24 hours after receipt to the statewide~~
 1457 ~~voter registration system. Completed paper voter registration~~
 1458 ~~applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and~~
 1459 ~~Motor Vehicles shall be forwarded within 5 days after receipt to~~
 1460 ~~the supervisor of the county where the office that processed or~~
 1461 ~~received that application is located.~~
 1462 ~~(5) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles~~
 1463 ~~must send, with each driver license renewal extension~~
 1464 ~~application authorized pursuant to s. 322.18(8), a uniform~~
 1465 ~~statewide voter registration application, the voter registration~~
 1466 ~~application prescribed under paragraph (3) (a), or a voter~~
 1467 ~~registration application developed especially for the purposes~~
 1468 ~~of this subsection by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor~~
 1469 ~~Vehicles, with the approval of the Department of State, which~~
 1470 ~~must meet the requirements of s. 97.052.~~
 1471 (4)~~(6)~~ A person providing voter registration services for
 1472 a driver license office may not:
 1473 (a) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference
 1474 or party registration;
 1475 (b) Display any political preference or party allegiance;

1476 (c) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action
 1477 the purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant
 1478 from registering to vote; or

1479 (d) Disclose any applicant's voter registration
 1480 information except as needed for the administration of voter
 1481 registration.

1482 (5)-(7) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 1483 shall collect data determined necessary by the Department of
 1484 State for program evaluation and reporting to the Election
 1485 Assistance Commission pursuant to federal law.

1486 (6)-(8) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 1487 shall ~~must~~ ensure that all voter registration services provided
 1488 by driver license offices are in compliance with the Voting
 1489 Rights Act of 1965.

1490 (7)-(9) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 1491 shall retain complete records of voter registration information
 1492 received, processed, and submitted to the Department of State
 1493 ~~statewide voter registration system~~ by the Department of Highway
 1494 Safety and Motor Vehicles. The retention of such ~~These~~ records
 1495 is ~~shall be~~ for the explicit purpose of supporting audit and
 1496 accounting controls established to ensure accurate and complete
 1497 electronic transmission of records between the Department of
 1498 State ~~statewide voter registration system~~ and the Department of
 1499 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

1500 (8)-(10) The Department of State shall provide the

1501 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with an
 1502 electronic database of street addresses valid for use as the
 1503 address of legal residence as required in s. 97.053(5). The
 1504 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall compare
 1505 the address provided by the applicant against the database of
 1506 valid street addresses. If the address provided by the applicant
 1507 does not match a valid street address in the database, the
 1508 applicant will be asked to verify the address provided. The
 1509 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may ~~shall~~ not
 1510 reject any application for voter registration for which a valid
 1511 match cannot be made.

1512 (9)~~(11)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 1513 Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the Department of
 1514 State to match information in the statewide voter registration
 1515 system with information in the database of the Department of
 1516 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the extent required to
 1517 verify the accuracy of the driver license number, Florida
 1518 identification number, or last four digits of the social
 1519 security number provided on applications for voter registration
 1520 as required in s. 97.053.

1521 (10)~~(12)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 1522 Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of
 1523 Social Security as required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002
 1524 to verify the last four digits of the social security number
 1525 provided in applications for voter registration as required in

1526 | s. 97.053.

1527 | ~~(11)-(13)~~ The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 1528 | Vehicles shall ~~must~~ assist the Department of State in regularly
 1529 | identifying changes in residence address on the driver license
 1530 | or identification card of a voter. The Department of State shall
 1531 | ~~must~~ report each such change to the appropriate supervisor of
 1532 | elections, who must change the voter's registration records in
 1533 | accordance with s. 98.065(4).

1534 | Section 16. Section 97.0575, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1535 | to read:

1536 | 97.0575 Third-party voter registration organizations.—

1537 | (1) Before engaging in any voter registration activities,
 1538 | a third-party voter registration organization must register and
 1539 | provide to the division, in an electronic format, the following
 1540 | information:

1541 | (a) The names of the officers of the organization and the
 1542 | name and permanent address of the organization.

1543 | (b) The name and address of the organization's registered
 1544 | agent in the state.

1545 | (c) The names, permanent addresses, and temporary
 1546 | addresses, if any, of each registration agent registering
 1547 | persons to vote in this state on behalf of the organization.

1548 | This paragraph does not apply to persons who only solicit
 1549 | applications and do not collect or handle voter registration
 1550 | applications.

1551 ~~(d) Beginning November 6, 2024, the specific general~~
1552 ~~election cycle for which the third-party voter registration~~
1553 ~~organization is registering persons to vote.~~

1554 ~~(e) An affirmation that each person collecting or handling~~
1555 ~~voter registration applications on behalf of the third-party~~
1556 ~~voter registration organization has not been convicted of a~~
1557 ~~felony violation of the Election Code, a felony violation of an~~
1558 ~~offense specified in s. 825.103, a felony offense specified in~~
1559 ~~s. 98.0751(2)(b) or (c), or a felony offense specified in~~
1560 ~~chapter 817, chapter 831, or chapter 837. A third-party voter~~
1561 ~~registration organization is liable for a fine in the amount of~~
1562 ~~\$50,000 for each such person who has been convicted of a felony~~
1563 ~~violation of the Election Code, a felony violation of an offense~~
1564 ~~specified in s. 825.103, a felony offense specified in s.~~
1565 ~~98.0751(2)(b) or (c), or a felony offense specified in chapter~~
1566 ~~817, chapter 831, or chapter 837 who is collecting or handling~~
1567 ~~voter registration applications on behalf of the third-party~~
1568 ~~voter registration organization.~~

1569 ~~(f) An affirmation that each person collecting or handling~~
1570 ~~voter registration applications on behalf of the third-party~~
1571 ~~voter registration organization is a citizen of the United~~
1572 ~~States of America. A third-party voter registration organization~~
1573 ~~is liable for a fine in the amount of \$50,000 for each such~~
1574 ~~person who is not a citizen and is collecting or handling voter~~
1575 ~~registration applications on behalf of the third-party voter~~

1576 ~~registration organization.~~

1577 ~~(2) Beginning November 6, 2024, the registration of a~~
 1578 ~~third-party voter registration organization automatically~~
 1579 ~~expires at the conclusion of the specific general election cycle~~
 1580 ~~for which the third-party voter registration organization is~~
 1581 ~~registered.~~

1582 (2)~~(3)~~ The division or the supervisor of elections shall
 1583 make voter registration forms available to third-party voter
 1584 registration organizations. All such forms must contain
 1585 information identifying the organization to which the forms are
 1586 provided. The division shall maintain a database of all third-
 1587 party voter registration organizations and the voter
 1588 registration forms assigned to the third-party voter
 1589 registration organization. Each supervisor of elections shall
 1590 provide to the division information on voter registration forms
 1591 assigned to and received from third-party voter registration
 1592 organizations. The information must be provided in a format and
 1593 at times as required by the division by rule. The division shall
 1594 update information on third-party voter registrations daily and
 1595 make the information publicly available.

1596 ~~(4) A third-party voter registration organization that~~
 1597 ~~collects voter registration applications shall provide a receipt~~
 1598 ~~to an applicant upon accepting possession of his or her~~
 1599 ~~application. The division shall adopt by rule a uniform format~~
 1600 ~~for the receipt by October 1, 2023. The format must include, but~~

1601 ~~need not be limited to, the name of the applicant, the date the~~
1602 ~~application is received, the name of the third-party voter~~
1603 ~~registration organization, the name of the registration agent,~~
1604 ~~the applicant's political party affiliation, and the county in~~
1605 ~~which the applicant resides.~~

1606 (3)~~(5)~~(a) A third-party voter registration organization
1607 that collects voter registration applications serves as a
1608 fiduciary to the applicant and shall ensure that any voter
1609 registration application entrusted to the organization,
1610 irrespective of party affiliation, race, ethnicity, or gender,
1611 is promptly delivered to the division or the supervisor of
1612 elections ~~in the county in which the applicant resides~~ within 14
1613 ~~10~~ days after the application is completed by the applicant, but
1614 not after registration closes for the next ensuing election. If
1615 a voter registration application collected by any third-party
1616 voter registration organization is not promptly delivered to the
1617 division or supervisor of elections in the county in which the
1618 applicant resides, the third-party voter registration
1619 organization is liable for the following fines:

1620 1. A fine in the amount of \$50 ~~per each day late, up to~~
1621 ~~\$2,500,~~ for each application received by the division or the
1622 supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant
1623 resides more than 14 ~~10~~ days after the applicant delivered the
1624 completed voter registration application to the third-party
1625 voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent

1626 acting on its behalf. A fine in the amount of \$250 ~~\$2,500~~ for
1627 each application received if the third-party voter registration
1628 organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf
1629 acted willfully.

1630 2. A fine in the amount of \$100 ~~per each day late, up to~~
1631 ~~\$5,000,~~ for each application collected by a third-party voter
1632 registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting
1633 on its behalf, before book closing for any given election for
1634 federal or state office and received by the division or the
1635 supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant
1636 resides after the book-closing deadline for such election. A
1637 fine in the amount of \$500 ~~\$5,000~~ for each application received
1638 if the third-party voter registration organization or any
1639 person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

1640 3. A fine in the amount of \$500 for each application
1641 collected by a third-party voter registration organization or
1642 any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, which is not
1643 submitted to the division or supervisor of elections in the
1644 county in which the applicant resides. A fine in the amount of
1645 \$1,000 ~~\$5,000~~ for any application not submitted if the third-
1646 party voter registration organization or person, entity, or
1647 agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

1648
1649 The aggregate fine which may be assessed pursuant to this
1650 paragraph against a third-party voter registration organization,

1651 including affiliate organizations, for violations committed in a
1652 calendar year is \$1,000 ~~\$250,000~~.

1653 (b) A showing by the third-party voter registration
1654 organization that the failure to deliver the voter registration
1655 application within the required timeframe is based upon force
1656 majeure or impossibility of performance shall be an affirmative
1657 defense to a violation of this subsection. The secretary may
1658 waive the fines described in this subsection upon a showing that
1659 the failure to deliver the voter registration application
1660 promptly is based upon force majeure or impossibility of
1661 performance.

1662 ~~(6) If a person collecting voter registration applications~~
1663 ~~on behalf of a third-party voter registration organization~~
1664 ~~alters the voter registration application of any other person,~~
1665 ~~without the other person's knowledge and consent, in violation~~
1666 ~~of s. 104.012(4) and is subsequently convicted of such offense,~~
1667 ~~the applicable third-party voter registration organization is~~
1668 ~~liable for a fine in the amount of \$5,000 for each application~~
1669 ~~altered.~~

1670 (4)~~(7)~~ If a person collecting voter registration
1671 applications on behalf of a third-party voter registration
1672 organization copies a voter's application or retains a voter's
1673 personal information, such as the voter's Florida driver license
1674 number, Florida identification card number, social security
1675 number, or signature, for any reason other than to provide such

1676 application or information to the third-party voter registration
1677 organization in compliance with this section, the person commits
1678 a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.
1679 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1680 (5)~~(8)~~ If the Secretary of State reasonably believes that
1681 a person has committed a violation of this section, the
1682 secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General for
1683 enforcement. The Attorney General may institute a civil action
1684 for a violation of this section or to prevent a violation of
1685 this section. An action for relief may include a permanent or
1686 temporary injunction, a restraining order, or any other
1687 appropriate order.

1688 ~~(9) The division shall adopt by rule a form to elicit~~
1689 ~~specific information concerning the facts and circumstances from~~
1690 ~~a person who claims to have been registered to vote by a third-~~
1691 ~~party voter registration organization but who does not appear as~~
1692 ~~an active voter on the voter registration rolls. The division~~
1693 ~~shall also adopt rules to ensure the integrity of the~~
1694 ~~registration process, including controls to ensure that all~~
1695 ~~completed forms are promptly delivered to the division or a~~
1696 ~~supervisor in the county in which the applicant resides.~~

1697 (6)~~(10)~~ The date on which an applicant signs a voter
1698 registration application is presumed to be the date on which the
1699 third-party voter registration organization received or
1700 collected the voter registration application.

1701 ~~(11) A third-party voter registration organization may not~~
 1702 ~~mail or otherwise provide a voter registration application upon~~
 1703 ~~which any information about an applicant has been filled in~~
 1704 ~~before it is provided to the applicant. A third-party voter~~
 1705 ~~registration organization that violates this section is liable~~
 1706 ~~for a fine in the amount of \$50 for each such application.~~

1707 ~~(12) The requirements of this section are retroactive for~~
 1708 ~~any third-party voter registration organization registered with~~
 1709 ~~the department as of July 1, 2023, and must be complied with~~
 1710 ~~within 90 days after the department provides notice to the~~
 1711 ~~third-party voter registration organization of the requirements~~
 1712 ~~contained in this section. Failure of the third-party voter~~
 1713 ~~registration organization to comply with the requirements within~~
 1714 ~~90 days after receipt of the notice shall automatically result~~
 1715 ~~in the cancellation of the third-party voter registration~~
 1716 ~~organization's registration.~~

1717 Section 17. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 1718 98.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1719 98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

1720 (4) STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF VALID RESIDENTIAL
 1721 STREET ADDRESSES.—

1722 (b) The department shall make the statewide database of
 1723 valid street addresses available to the Department of Highway
 1724 Safety and Motor Vehicles as provided in s. 97.057(8) ~~s.~~
 1725 ~~97.057(10)~~. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

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1726 shall use the database for purposes of validating the legal
1727 residential addresses provided in voter registration
1728 applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and
1729 Motor Vehicles.

1730 Section 18. Section 100.51, Florida Statutes, is created
1731 to read:

1732 100.51 General Election Day paid holiday.—In order to
1733 encourage civic participation, enable more individuals to serve
1734 as poll workers, and provide additional time for the resolution
1735 of any issues that arise while a voter is casting his or her
1736 vote, General Election Day shall be a paid holiday. A voter is
1737 entitled to absent himself or herself from any service or
1738 employment in which he or she is engaged or employed during the
1739 time the polls are open on General Election Day. A voter who
1740 absents himself or herself under this section may not be
1741 penalized in any way, and a deduction may not be made from his
1742 or her usual salary or wages on account of his or her absence.

1743 Section 19. Section 101.016, Florida Statutes, is created
1744 to read:

1745 101.016 Strategic elections equipment reserve.—The
1746 division shall maintain a strategic elections equipment reserve
1747 of voting systems that may be deployed in the event of an
1748 emergency as defined in s. 101.732 or upon the occurrence of
1749 equipment capacity issues due to unexpected voter turnout. The
1750 reserve must include tabulation equipment and any other

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1751 necessary equipment, including, but not limited to, printers,
1752 which are in use by each supervisor of elections. In lieu of
1753 maintaining a physical reserve of such equipment, the division
1754 may contract with a vendor of voting equipment to provide such
1755 equipment on an as-needed basis.

1756 Section 20. Section 101.019, Florida Statutes, is
1757 repealed.

1758 Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of
1759 subsection (2) of section 101.048, Florida Statutes, are amended
1760 to read:

1761 101.048 Provisional ballots.—

1762 (1) At all elections, a voter claiming to be properly
1763 registered in the state and eligible to vote ~~at the precinct~~ in
1764 the election but whose eligibility cannot be determined, a
1765 person whom an election official asserts is not eligible,
1766 including, but not limited to, a person to whom notice has been
1767 sent pursuant to s. 98.075(7), but for whom a final
1768 determination of eligibility has not been made, and other
1769 persons specified in the code shall be entitled to vote a
1770 provisional ballot at any precinct in the county in which the
1771 voter claims to be registered. Once voted, the provisional
1772 ballot must be placed in a secrecy envelope and thereafter
1773 sealed in a provisional ballot envelope. The provisional ballot
1774 must be deposited in a ballot box. All provisional ballots must
1775 remain sealed in their envelopes for return to the supervisor of

1776 elections. The department shall prescribe the form of the
1777 provisional ballot envelope. A person casting a provisional
1778 ballot has the right to present written evidence supporting his
1779 or her eligibility to vote to the supervisor of elections by not
1780 later than 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.

1781 (2) (a) The county canvassing board shall examine each
1782 Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate and Affirmation to
1783 determine if the person voting that ballot was entitled to vote
1784 in the county in which ~~at the precinct where~~ the person cast a
1785 vote in the election and that the person had not already cast a
1786 ballot in the election. In determining whether a person casting
1787 a provisional ballot is entitled to vote, the county canvassing
1788 board shall review the information provided in the Voter's
1789 Certificate and Affirmation, written evidence provided by the
1790 person pursuant to subsection (1), information provided in any
1791 cure affidavit and accompanying supporting documentation
1792 pursuant to subsection (6), any other evidence presented by the
1793 supervisor, and, in the case of a challenge, any evidence
1794 presented by the challenger. A ballot of a person casting a
1795 provisional ballot shall be canvassed pursuant to paragraph (b)
1796 unless the canvassing board determines by a preponderance of the
1797 evidence that the person was not entitled to vote.

1798 (b) If it is determined that the person was registered and
1799 entitled to vote in the county in which ~~at the precinct where~~
1800 the person cast a vote in the election, the canvassing board

1801 must compare the signature on the Provisional Ballot Voter's
 1802 Certificate and Affirmation or the provisional ballot cure
 1803 affidavit with the signature on the voter's registration or
 1804 precinct register. A provisional ballot may be counted only if:

1805 1. The signature on the voter's certificate or the cure
 1806 affidavit matches the elector's signature in the registration
 1807 books or the precinct register; however, in the case of a cure
 1808 affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subsection
 1809 (6) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

1810 2. The cure affidavit contains a signature that does not
 1811 match the elector's signature in the registration books or the
 1812 precinct register, but the elector has submitted a current and
 1813 valid Tier 1 form of identification confirming his or her
 1814 identity pursuant to subsection (6).

1815
 1816 For purposes of this paragraph, any canvassing board finding
 1817 that signatures do not match must be by majority vote and beyond
 1818 a reasonable doubt.

1819 Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraphs
 1820 (c) and (d) of subsection (3) of section 101.62, Florida
 1821 Statutes, are amended, and subsection (7) is added to that
 1822 section, to read:

1823 101.62 Request for vote-by-mail ballots.—

1824 (1) REQUEST.—

1825 (a) The supervisor shall accept a request for a vote-by-

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1826 mail ballot only from a voter or, if directly instructed by the
1827 voter, a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's
1828 legal guardian. A request may be made in person, in writing, by
1829 telephone, or through the supervisor's website. The department
1830 shall prescribe by rule by October 1, 2023, a uniform statewide
1831 application to make a written request for a vote-by-mail ballot
1832 which includes fields for all information required in this
1833 subsection. One request is deemed sufficient to receive a vote-
1834 by-mail ballot for all elections until the voter or the voter's
1835 designee notifies the supervisor that the voter cancels such
1836 request through the end of the calendar year of the next
1837 regularly scheduled general election, unless the voter or the
1838 voter's designee indicates at the time the request is made the
1839 elections ~~within such period~~ for which the voter desires to
1840 receive a vote-by-mail ballot. The supervisor must cancel a
1841 request for a vote-by-mail ballot when any first-class mail or
1842 nonforwardable mail sent by the supervisor to the voter is
1843 returned as undeliverable. If the voter requests a vote-by-mail
1844 ballot thereafter, the voter must provide or confirm his or her
1845 current residential address.

1846 (3) DELIVERY OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS.—

1847 (c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a) or
1848 paragraph (b), the supervisor shall mail vote-by-mail ballots
1849 within 2 business days after receiving a request for such a
1850 ballot, but no later than the 11th ~~10th~~ day before election day.

1851 The deadline to submit a request for a ballot to be mailed is 5
 1852 p.m. local time on the 12th day before an upcoming election.

1853 (d) Upon a request for a vote-by-mail ballot, the
 1854 supervisor shall provide a vote-by-mail ballot to each voter by
 1855 whom a request for that ballot has been made, by one of the
 1856 following means:

1857 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the
 1858 voter's current mailing address on file with the supervisor or
 1859 any other address the voter specifies in the request. The
 1860 envelopes must be prominently marked "Do Not Forward."

1861 2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine
 1862 transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas
 1863 voters. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter
 1864 may designate in the vote-by-mail ballot request the preferred
 1865 method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the
 1866 method of transmission, the vote-by-mail ballot must be mailed.

1867 3. By personal delivery to the voter after vote-by-mail
 1868 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day upon
 1869 presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043.

1870 4. By delivery to the voter's designee after vote-by-mail
 1871 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day. Any
 1872 voter may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot
 1873 for the voter; ~~however, the person designated may not pick up~~
 1874 ~~more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election, other than the~~
 1875 ~~designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be~~

1876 ~~picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. The~~
1877 ~~designee shall provide to the supervisor the written~~
1878 ~~authorization by the voter and a picture identification of the~~
1879 ~~designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall~~
1880 ~~state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the~~
1881 ~~voter to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the voter is~~
1882 ~~a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the~~
1883 ~~relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the~~
1884 ~~affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is~~
1885 ~~authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the~~
1886 ~~voter on the written authorization matches the signature of the~~
1887 ~~voter on file, the supervisor must give the ballot to that~~
1888 ~~designee for delivery to the voter.~~

1889 5. Except as provided in s. 101.655, the supervisor may
1890 not deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to a voter or a voter's
1891 designee pursuant to subparagraph 3. or subparagraph 4.,
1892 respectively, during the mandatory early voting period and up to
1893 7 p.m. on election day, unless there is an emergency, to the
1894 extent that the voter will be unable to go to a designated early
1895 voting site in his or her county or to his or her assigned
1896 polling place on election day. If a vote-by-mail ballot is
1897 delivered, the voter or his or her designee must execute an
1898 affidavit affirming to the facts which allow for delivery of the
1899 vote-by-mail ballot. The department shall adopt a rule providing
1900 for the form of the affidavit.

1901 (7) DEADLINES.—If a deadline under this section falls on a
 1902 day when the office of a supervisor is usually closed, the
 1903 deadline must be extended until the next business day.

1904 Section 23. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section
 1905 101.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1906 101.64 Delivery of vote-by-mail ballots; envelopes; form.—

1907 (1)(a) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
 1908 ballot two envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the voter
 1909 must ~~absent elector shall~~ enclose his or her marked ballot; and
 1910 a postage prepaid mailing envelope, into which the voter must
 1911 ~~absent elector shall~~ then place the secrecy envelope, which
 1912 shall be addressed to the supervisor and also bear on the back
 1913 side a certificate in substantially the following form:

1914 Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before
 1915 Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

1916 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

1917 I,, do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified
 1918 and registered voter of County, Florida, and that I have
 1919 not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I
 1920 understand that if I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in
 1921 connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more
 1922 than once in an election, I can be convicted of a felony of the
 1923 third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to
 1924 5 years. I also understand that failure to sign this certificate
 1925 will invalidate my ballot.

1951 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.-
 1952 (1) The provisions of this code may ~~shall~~ not be construed
 1953 to prohibit any voter ~~elector~~ from voting in person at the
 1954 voter's ~~elector's~~ precinct on the day of an election or at an
 1955 early voting site, notwithstanding that the voter ~~elector~~ has
 1956 requested a vote-by-mail ballot for that election. A voter ~~an~~
 1957 ~~elector~~ who has returned a voted vote-by-mail ballot to the
 1958 supervisor, however, is deemed to have cast his or her ballot
 1959 and is not entitled to vote another ballot or to have a
 1960 provisional ballot counted by the county canvassing board. A
 1961 voter ~~An elector~~ who has received a vote-by-mail ballot and has
 1962 not returned the voted ballot to the supervisor, but desires to
 1963 vote in person, shall return the ballot, whether voted or not,
 1964 to the election board in the voter's ~~elector's~~ precinct or to an
 1965 early voting site. The returned ballot shall be marked
 1966 "canceled" by the board and placed with other canceled ballots.
 1967 However, if the voter ~~elector~~ does not return the ballot and the
 1968 election official:
 1969 (a) Confirms that the supervisor has received the voter's
 1970 ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, the voter ~~elector~~ shall not be
 1971 allowed to vote in person. If the voter ~~elector~~ maintains that
 1972 he or she has not returned the vote-by-mail ballot or remains
 1973 eligible to vote, the voter ~~elector~~ shall be provided a
 1974 provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.
 1975 (b) Confirms that the supervisor has not received the

1976 | voter's ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, the voter ~~elector~~ shall
 1977 | be allowed to vote in person as provided in this code. The
 1978 | voter's ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, if subsequently received,
 1979 | shall not be counted and shall remain in the mailing envelope,
 1980 | and the envelope shall be marked "Rejected as Illegal."

1981 | (c) Cannot determine whether the supervisor has received
 1982 | the voter's ~~elector's~~ vote-by-mail ballot, the elector may vote
 1983 | a provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.

1984 | (2)(a) The supervisor shall allow a voter ~~an elector~~ who
 1985 | has received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted
 1986 | vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail
 1987 | envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot
 1988 | intake station. Secure ballot intake stations shall be placed at
 1989 | the main office of the supervisor, at each permanent branch
 1990 | office of the supervisor which meets the criteria set forth in
 1991 | s. 101.657(1)(a) for branch offices used for early voting and
 1992 | which is open for at least the minimum number of hours
 1993 | prescribed by s. 98.015(4), and at each early voting site.
 1994 | Secure ballot intake stations may also be placed at any other
 1995 | site that would otherwise qualify as an early voting site under
 1996 | s. 101.657(1). Secure ballot intake stations must be
 1997 | geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county
 1998 | with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is
 1999 | practicable. ~~Except for secure ballot intake stations at an~~
 2000 | ~~office of the supervisor, a secure ballot intake station may~~

2001 ~~only be used during the county's early voting hours of operation~~
 2002 ~~and must be monitored in person by an employee of the~~
 2003 ~~supervisor's office.~~ A secure ballot intake station at an office
 2004 of the supervisor must be continuously monitored ~~in person~~ by an
 2005 ~~employee of the supervisor's office~~ when the secure ballot
 2006 intake station is accessible for deposit of ballots.

2007 ~~(3) If any secure ballot intake station is left accessible~~
 2008 ~~for ballot receipt other than as authorized by this section, the~~
 2009 ~~supervisor is subject to a civil penalty of \$25,000. The~~
 2010 ~~division is authorized to enforce this provision.~~

2011 Section 25. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
 2012 104.0515, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (6) and
 2013 (7) are added to that section, to read:

2014 104.0515 Voting rights; deprivation of, or interference
 2015 with, prohibited; penalty.-

2016 (2) A ~~No~~ person acting under color of law may not ~~shall~~:

2017 (a) In determining whether any individual is qualified
 2018 under law to vote in any election, apply any standard, practice,
 2019 or procedure different from the standards, practices, or
 2020 procedures applied under law to other individuals within the
 2021 same political subdivision who have been found to be qualified
 2022 to vote; or

2023 (b) Deny the right of any individual to vote in any
 2024 election because of an error or omission on any record or paper
 2025 relating to any application, registration, or other act

2026 requisite to voting, if such error or omission is not material
 2027 in determining whether such individual is qualified under law to
 2028 vote in such election. This paragraph shall apply to vote-by-
 2029 mail ballots only if there is a pattern or history of
 2030 discrimination on the basis of race, color, or previous
 2031 condition of servitude in regard to vote-by-mail ballots.

2032 (3) (a) A ~~No~~ person, whether acting under color of law or
 2033 otherwise, may not deceive, ~~shall~~ intimidate, threaten, or
 2034 coerce, or attempt to deceive, intimidate, threaten, or coerce,
 2035 any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right
 2036 of such other person to vote or not to vote as that person may
 2037 choose, or for the purpose of causing such other person to vote
 2038 for, or not vote for, any candidate for any office at any
 2039 general, special, or primary election held solely or in part for
 2040 the purpose of selecting or electing any such candidate.

2041 (b) A violation of this subsection includes, but is not
 2042 limited to, any the following:

2043 1. The use of force or threats to use force, or the use of
 2044 any other conduct to practice intimidation that causes or is
 2045 reasonably expected to cause interference with an individual's
 2046 right to vote.

2047 2. The knowing use of a deceptive or fraudulent device,
 2048 contrivance, or communication that causes or is reasonably
 2049 expected to cause interference with an individual's right to
 2050 vote.

2051 3. The obstruction of, impediment to, or other
 2052 interference with access to any early voting site, polling
 2053 place, secure ballot intake station, or office of the supervisor
 2054 of elections in a manner that causes interference with or
 2055 delays, or is reasonably expected to interfere with or cause a
 2056 delay in, an individual's right to vote or the voting process.

2057 ~~(4) A No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting,~~
 2058 ~~and no standard, practice, or procedure, shall be imposed or~~
 2059 ~~applied by any political subdivision of this state may not~~
 2060 impose or apply any voting qualification or prerequisite to
 2061 voting or any standard, practice, or procedure to deny or
 2062 abridge the right of any citizen to vote on account of race or
 2063 color.

2064 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
 2065 aggrieved person, organization whose membership includes or is
 2066 likely to include aggrieved persons, organization whose mission
 2067 would be frustrated by a violation of this section, organization
 2068 that would expend resources in order to fulfill such
 2069 organization's mission, the Attorney General, or the FLVRA
 2070 Commission may file a civil action alleging a violation of
 2071 subsection (3) in a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to
 2072 the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure or in the Second Judicial
 2073 Circuit.

2074 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and in
 2075 addition to any other remedies that may be imposed, a court that

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2076 finds a violation of subsection (3) shall impose remedies
2077 appropriate to address the violation. Appropriate remedies
2078 include, but are not limited to, requiring an extended voting
2079 period, awarding nominal damages for any violation, and awarding
2080 compensatory or punitive damages for any willful violation.

2081 Section 26. Subsection (1) of section 104.42, Florida
2082 Statutes, is amended to read:

2083 104.42 Fraudulent registration and illegal voting;
2084 investigation.—

2085 (1) The supervisor of elections is authorized to
2086 investigate fraudulent registrations and illegal voting and to
2087 report his or her findings to the local state attorney ~~and the~~
2088 ~~Office of Election Crimes and Security.~~

2089 Section 27. This act shall take effect January 1, 2025.