

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.021,
3 F.S.; providing a definition; amending s. 101.015,
4 F.S.; requiring the Department of State to adopt rules
5 relating to the security of certain voting procedures;
6 requiring the department to create a certain manual;
7 requiring the department to adopt by rule certain
8 minimum security standards; requiring a county
9 canvassing board to enforce such standards; requiring
10 a county canvassing board to reconcile certain ballots
11 and forms; requiring the department to adopt rules for
12 the physical security of election materials and
13 technology, absentee vote process reporting and
14 observation, and manual cross-checks for certain
15 systems; amending s. 101.131, F.S.; authorizing
16 political action committees and political committees
17 to have poll watchers in polling rooms and early
18 voting areas; revising the date before which poll
19 watchers must be designated; revising the information
20 that must be on a poll watcher's identification badge;
21 prohibiting a poll watcher from wearing another poll
22 watcher's identification badge; creating s. 101.132,
23 F.S.; authorizing certain persons to designate
24 watchers for absentee vote processing locations;
25 providing requirements for absentee vote processing

26 location work areas and the number of watchers who may
27 observe in each area; providing requirements for such
28 watchers; requiring the department to adopt by rule a
29 certain manual; requiring the department to prescribe
30 certain forms; requiring a supervisor of elections to
31 accept certain forms; prohibiting certain persons from
32 being designated as watchers; providing requirements
33 for watcher identification badges; amending s. 101.21,
34 F.S.; providing requirements for printed ballots and
35 voter certificate envelopes; requiring a supervisor of
36 elections to complete a certain report; requiring a
37 county canvassing board to review and approve such
38 report before an election is certified; amending s.
39 101.545, F.S.; requiring the retention of envelopes,
40 seals, and video recordings for a certain period;
41 authorizing the destruction of certain election
42 materials after a certain audit is completed; amending
43 s. 101.5614, F.S.; requiring certain information to be
44 entered on certain forms; requiring certain hand-
45 counted audits; providing requirements for such
46 audits; prohibiting a tabulator from using networking
47 communication hardware; authorizing a supervisor to
48 collect certain data in a certain manner; requiring
49 certain ballots to be duplicated in the presence of
50 certain watchers; authorizing a duplicate to be made

51 by hand duplication; authorizing certain persons to
52 observe the duplication of ballots; requiring a county
53 canvassing board to convene in the presence of certain
54 parties for certain discussions before certification
55 of the election; amending s. 101.595, F.S.; requiring
56 a certain audit to be conducted after each election;
57 providing requirements for the audit; requiring the
58 department to adopt rules; amending s. 101.6103, F.S.;
59 requiring a supervisor of elections to mail ballots
60 with certain envelopes; requiring a supervisor of
61 elections to use separate postal service billing
62 permits for certain purposes; revising actions an
63 elector must take upon receipt of his or her ballot;
64 providing requirements for a voter certificate
65 envelope; requiring an elector who requests a
66 replacement ballot to provide certain identification;
67 revising the circumstances in which such a ballot is
68 counted; requiring a supervisor of elections to keep
69 such ballots stored in an area secured in a specified
70 manner; amending s. 101.6104, F.S.; requiring a ballot
71 to be treated in a certain manner upon county
72 canvassing board receipt of a challenge of a voter
73 certificate envelope or cure affidavit signature;
74 amending s. 101.62, F.S.; requiring a person
75 requesting a vote-by-mail ballot to provide and attest

76 | to an allowed reason for such request; providing such
77 | allowed reasons; requiring voters to provide certain
78 | information in certain written requests for vote-by-
79 | mail ballots; removing certain applicability
80 | provisions; providing information that a supervisor of
81 | elections must record for each vote-by-mail ballot
82 | request; revising a statement that must be marked on
83 | certain envelopes; amending s. 101.64, F.S.; revising
84 | the specified envelopes that a supervisor of elections
85 | must enclose with a vote-by-mail ballot; revising the
86 | voter's certificate; amending s. 101.65, F.S.;
87 | revising the instructions that a supervisor of
88 | elections must enclose with a vote-by-mail ballot;
89 | amending s. 101.655, F.S.; requiring a supervisor of
90 | elections to provide bipartisan supervised voting for
91 | certain absent electors at the request of certain
92 | persons; providing requirements for the transportation
93 | and chain of custody for ballots delivered to and
94 | completed by certain absent voters; requiring a
95 | supervised voting team to verify an elector's identity
96 | in a certain manner; amending s. 101.68, F.S.;
97 | requiring a supervisor of elections to subject a
98 | certificate signature, a voter certificate envelope,
99 | and ballot material to certain verification; requiring
100 | a supervisor of elections to evaluate certain photo

101 identification in a certain manner; requiring a county
102 canvassing board to complete the canvass of certain
103 ballots within a certain period; requiring a county
104 canvassing board to make certain ballot comparisons
105 according to certain records and reports; specifying
106 that certain identification is considered ballot
107 material and must be presented to certain persons;
108 providing that certain envelopes are considered
109 illegal; requiring logs of certain information to be
110 kept; requiring certain materials to be preserved in a
111 specified manner and reviewed for certain purposes;
112 requiring a supervisor of elections to provide direct
113 links to his or her website in certain circumstances;
114 revising the vote-by-mail cure affidavit; authorizing
115 certain persons to inspect certain materials;
116 requiring the review of certain materials in certain
117 circumstances; requiring a supervisor of elections to
118 provide certain persons with certain access to certain
119 ballot materials; prohibiting a supervisor of
120 elections from limiting the time available to certain
121 persons to complete a cure affidavit review during
122 certain periods; providing that a ballot for which a
123 cure affidavit protest is rejected shall be counted;
124 requiring county canvassing board minutes to contain
125 certain information; requiring a supervisor of

126 elections to research certain electors to determine
127 their voter eligibility; providing that certain
128 information must be made available to certain persons;
129 amending s. 101.69, F.S.; revising the process for
130 marking certain returned ballots as canceled;
131 requiring certain materials to be submitted to the
132 Office of Election Crimes and Security for
133 investigation; revising locations at which secure
134 ballot intake stations may be placed; requiring
135 certain daily inspection of secure ballot intake
136 stations during early voting; subjecting a supervisor
137 of elections to a civil penalty in certain
138 circumstances; amending s. 101.6921, F.S.; revising
139 the specified envelopes that a supervisor of elections
140 must enclose with a vote-by-mail ballot; revising the
141 voter's certificate; amending s. 101.6923, F.S.;
142 revising the instructions that a supervisor of
143 elections must enclose with certain vote-by-mail
144 ballots; amending s. 102.012, F.S.; requiring a
145 supervisor of elections to recruit absentee vote
146 processing workers; requiring such workers to
147 subscribe to an oath or affirmation and meet certain
148 qualifications; amending s. 102.014, F.S.; requiring a
149 supervisor of elections to conduct required training
150 for absentee vote processing workers; requiring the

151 department to develop certain uniform training
152 procedures for use by supervisors of elections;
153 requiring such workers to demonstrate a working
154 knowledge of certain laws and procedures; requiring a
155 supervisor of elections to appoint a replacement for
156 such a worker in certain circumstances; prohibiting an
157 absent vote processing worker from working in a work
158 area unless he or she completes certain minimum
159 training requirements; requiring the department to
160 create and adopt by rule an absentee vote processing
161 procedures manual; providing requirements for such
162 manual; requiring the department to revise the manual
163 as necessary; amending s. 102.141, F.S.; revising
164 county canvassing board composition; authorizing a
165 supervisor of elections to appoint a municipal
166 official as a substitute member of the county
167 canvassing board; requiring a specified quorum of the
168 county canvassing board for certain proceedings;
169 requiring real-time video monitoring of county
170 canvassing board meetings; requiring meeting minutes
171 to be published on the supervisor of elections'
172 website; requiring the county canvassing board to
173 review certain reports each day and take certain
174 actions; requiring the county canvassing board to
175 review certain information before certifying an

176 election; requiring the county canvassing board to
177 address certain discrepancies in a certain manner;
178 requiring a special election in certain circumstances;
179 authorizing the removal from office of the supervisor
180 of elections in certain circumstances; requiring a
181 manual recount to use original paper ballots and voter
182 certificate envelopes in certain circumstances;
183 revising requirements for a county canvassing board
184 conducting a recount; amending s. 102.166, F.S.;

185 authorizing a candidate to request a manual recount of
186 certain votes after a first set of unofficial returns
187 in certain circumstances; revising the percentage of
188 votes by which a candidate is defeated upon which a
189 manual recount of certain votes is required; providing
190 requirements for such recounts; authorizing certain
191 governmental entities to request a manual recount in
192 certain circumstances; requiring a certain audit to be
193 conducted upon delivery of a certain petition;
194 providing requirements for such audit; requiring a
195 manual audit in certain races for which a specified
196 discrepancy exists; conforming a cross-reference;
197 amending s. 104.21, F.S.; providing that an election
198 worker who changes certain envelope information or
199 markings commits a misdemeanor; providing criminal
200 penalties; providing criminal penalties; creating s.

201 104.291, F.S.; providing that a poll worker who wears
 202 the poll worker identification badge of another
 203 commits a misdemeanor; providing criminal penalties;
 204 amending s. 104.30, F.S.; providing that a person who
 205 prints certain ballots or voter certificate envelopes
 206 without authorization commits a felony; providing
 207 criminal penalties; providing an effective date.
 208

209 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 210

211 Section 1. Subsections (25) through (47) of section
 212 97.021, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (26)
 213 through (48), respectively, and a new subsection (25) is added
 214 to that section, to read:

215 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except
 216 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

217 (25) "Other election system" means any information
 218 technology other than a voting system which is used in the
 219 election process and which is capable of adding, deleting, or
 220 modifying ballots or votes or which stores critical election
 221 data. The term includes hosted technologies and service
 222 providers that store or have access to critical election data.
 223 The term also includes, but is not limited to, the voter
 224 registration system, electronic precinct registers, tabulation
 225 systems, mail sorters, election night reporting systems, ballot

226 tracking solutions, and future technologies integrated into the
 227 election process.

228 Section 2. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section
 229 101.015, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9),
 230 (10), and (11), respectively, subsections (3) and (4) and
 231 present subsection (6) are amended, and new subsections (5),
 232 (6), and (7) are added to that section, to read:

233 101.015 Standards for voting systems.—

234 (3) The Department of State shall adopt rules to achieve
 235 and maintain the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality,
 236 ~~and efficiency,~~ and security of the procedures of in-person and
 237 absentee voting, including write-in voting, and of counting,
 238 tabulating, and recording votes by voting systems and other
 239 election systems used in this state.

240 (4)(a) The Department of State shall adopt rules
 241 establishing minimum security standards for voting systems and
 242 create an absentee ballot processing manual adopted by rule that
 243 is composed of such standards. The standards, at a minimum, must
 244 address the ~~following:~~

245 ~~1.~~ chain of custody of ballots, including chain of custody
 246 forms and procedures for ballots returned by mail, secure ballot
 247 intake stations, in-person return, or facsimile, which extend
 248 through the work areas of the absentee vote counting location
 249 and to storage. Chain of custody standards must:

250 1. Enable monitoring of the ballot transport and receiving

251 process by the county canvassing board and monitoring of
252 precertification audits and postcertification procedural audits.

253 2. Include validation and reporting by the county
254 canvassing board on a daily basis during the election that the
255 required chain of custody forms are properly completed, that
256 chain of custody is not broken, that any exceptions are noted
257 with an action plan to resolve, and that sent and received
258 ballot quantities and seals match and are consistent with the
259 seal number ranges and ballot transport container numbers
260 assigned to particular locations. Such validation and reporting
261 shall include objective measures for determining ballot
262 quantities received at the vote counting location and to
263 determine quantities when moved between work areas of the vote
264 counting location.

265 3. Require that appropriate corrective measures as
266 determined by the department be taken immediately when the chain
267 of custody is broken. Such measures must include notification
268 and reasonable steps to correct the issue, employee education,
269 disciplinary actions, reassignment, penalties, or criminal
270 referral.

271 4. Provide definitions for and examples of acts that
272 constitute an excessive transport time; a broken seal; a marking
273 that is not legally binding, such as overwritten data entry
274 without proper notation; missing or disparate ballot quantities;
275 and other circumstances that constitute a broken chain of

276 custody.

277 5. Prohibit the comingling of absentee ballots from a
278 secure ballot intake station, the United States Postal Service,
279 in-person return at the supervisor's office or vote counting
280 location, or facsimile until the chain of custody validation is
281 completed from each source.

282 6. When return ballot postage is prepaid by a supervisor,
283 require the supervisor to have separate post office billing
284 permits dedicated to and used exclusively for outgoing ballots
285 and returned ballots to enable auditing. Post office billing
286 records must be reconciled on a daily basis with the number of
287 absentee ballots sent to and received from the United States
288 Postal Service. The supervisor may not use the post office
289 billing permits required under this sub-subparagraph for mailing
290 of other items.

291 7. When return ballot postage is not prepaid by a
292 supervisor, require the supervisor to employ other means to
293 reconcile the number of completed ballots transported between
294 the post office box and the absentee vote counting location or
295 have the ballots delivered directly to the absentee vote
296 counting location.

297 8. Require that ballots returned by registered mail be
298 accepted and tracked in a log used for auditing purposes, if the
299 supervisor or voter chooses to pay for the service.

300 9. Require chain of custody forms for completed ballots

- 301 from secure intake stations to include fields for the following:
- 302 a. The address of the secure ballot intake station
- 303 location and ballot transport container number.
- 304 b. Date and time.
- 305 c. Verification that the secure ballot intake station was
- 306 empty at the beginning of the day with one verifier from each
- 307 major political party who shall sign and print his or her name
- 308 and then write either "empty" or " not empty" to reflect the
- 309 state in which he or she found the intake receptacle.
- 310 d. The printed names and signatures of two persons who
- 311 count the ballots in the secure ballot intake station for
- 312 transport at the close of the day's authorized voting hours,
- 313 place the ballots in an assigned ballot transport container, and
- 314 place a seal on the ballot transport container.
- 315 e. The seal number placed on the ballot transport
- 316 container.
- 317 f. The printed names and signatures of two transporters
- 318 accepting custody of the sealed voter certificate envelopes and
- 319 the seal number observed.
- 320 g. The transport vehicle type and license plate number.
- 321 h. Transporter departure time, the seal number on the
- 322 ballot transport container, and checkbox that the seal is intact
- 323 at the handoff.
- 324 i. The printed names and signatures of two vote counting
- 325 center staff accepting custody of the voter certificate

326 envelopes from transporters, the date, time, the seal number,
327 checkbox that the seal is intact, the quantity counted and
328 method used to count.

329 j. The ballot transport container number.

330 k. Explanations for form anomalies or missing data,
331 including excessive transport times, which includes any
332 documented period of transport that exceeds 12 hours.

333 10. Require the supervisor to be notified if a ballot is
334 found in the secure ballot intake station at the beginning of
335 the day. The supervisor shall research the origin of the ballot
336 and if the supervisor determines that the ballot was placed in
337 the intake receptacle during authorized voting hours during the
338 previous day, the ballot shall be processed. If the supervisor
339 determines that the ballot was placed in the intake receptacle
340 outside of authorized voting hours or that the ballot envelope
341 does not display a valid county election serial number, the
342 supervisor shall notify the voter that his or her ballot may not
343 be counted unless it is cured, send the voter instructions to
344 complete a cure affidavit, and refer the matter to the Office of
345 Election Crimes and Security for investigation.

346 11. Provide that the facsimile used to send and receive
347 uniformed and overseas voter ballots may only be used for that
348 function, and the facsimile transmission logs shall be printed
349 daily, retained, and made available to the county canvassing
350 board, state and county inspectors and auditors, and public

351 watchers.

352 12. Require the maintenance of ballot-on-demand print
353 logs. The logs must be made available to the county canvassing
354 board, state and county inspectors and auditors, and public
355 watchers.

356 13. Require, after the county canvassing board completes
357 the daily validation of the chain of custody, the number of
358 absentee ballots received at the vote counting location by
359 source to be posted daily on the supervisor's website. Any chain
360 of custody or validation issues must be noted in the daily chain
361 of custody report, entered into the county canvassing board's
362 minutes, and reported to the department.

363 14. Require each ballot and envelope to have a unique
364 county election serial number. The unique county election serial
365 number must include at least 11 digits. The first 2 digits must
366 identify the county and the next 4 digits must identify the
367 month and year of the election. Such numbers may not be repeated
368 for 5 years. A supervisor must ensure that vendors are properly
369 allocated distinct ranges of numbers and that produced materials
370 contain only the allocated ranges of numbers before the ballots
371 and envelopes are mailed. Additional security measures must be
372 implemented to protect ballots from being illegally duplicated,
373 distributed, or inserted, including the sourcing of ballots and
374 envelopes to separate vendors.

375 (b) The standards included in the absentee ballot

376 processing manual shall be enforced by the county canvassing
377 board before opening voter certificate envelopes and by audit
378 before election certification with disciplinary penalties for
379 noncompliance. The county canvassing board manual must include
380 monitoring of the chain of custody of ballots and portable
381 storage media, manual cross-check reports, and manual count
382 procedures.

383 (c) Before certifying an election, the county canvassing
384 board shall reconcile the number of ballots transported from
385 secure ballot intake stations, the United States Postal Service,
386 in-person return at the supervisor's office or vote counting
387 location, and facsimile with the number of absentee ballots
388 counted. The county canvassing board shall also reconcile the
389 chain of custody forms with the number of ballots transported
390 from the vote counting location to storage and the number of
391 ballots counted. Both reconciliation reports require approval by
392 the Department of State before certification of the election and
393 must be promptly published on the supervisor's website.

394 (5) The Department of State shall develop rules for the
395 physical security of election materials and technology, which
396 must include all of the following:

397 (a) Standards for building security at absentee vote
398 counting locations. Electronic badge access must be required to
399 gain access to the absentee vote counting location and to secure
400 storage areas within the building. All employees and visitors,

401 including vendors, must be required to visibly wear photo
402 identification badges at all times.

403 (b) An absentee vote counting location must be in the
404 supervisor of election's office or a standalone building that
405 may include gated fencing. Absentee vote counting locations must
406 have video surveillance of all building and parking lot entries
407 and exits.

408 (c) Cable and other ports must be sealed on all systems
409 left unattended overnight at any early voting location.

410 (d) Secure ballot intake station standards which require
411 the secure ballot intake station to be located inside polling
412 places or main and, if used, branch offices of a supervisor. A
413 supervisor may only use a brand or model of secure ballot intake
414 station that the Department of State has certified as secure.
415 Secure ballot intake stations must be inspected and audited by
416 bipartisan state or county teams accompanied by public watchers.

417 (e) Ballots must be transported by at least two persons,
418 each representing a different major political party. A duplicate
419 copy of the ballot transport form must be placed inside the
420 ballot transport container before the container is sealed.

421 (f) Once received at a vote counting location, a sealed
422 ballot transport container must be stored in a secured area
423 under video surveillance and only accessible by electronic badge
424 access. Compliance shall be validated by the county canvassing
425 board with public observation.

426 (g) A prohibition of the opening of any sealed container
427 of completed ballots without observation by members of both
428 major parties and the public.

429 (h) Portable storage media must be stored in a secured
430 area under video surveillance and only accessible by electronic
431 badge access.

432 (i) Chain of custody of ballots, including a detailed
433 description of forms and procedures to create a complete record
434 of custody of ballots and paper outputs, must begin with the
435 ballot design and the receipt of ballots from all sources until
436 such time as the ballots are destroyed.

437 (6) The Department of State shall adopt rules providing
438 absentee vote process reporting and observation requirements of
439 the supervisor of elections to state, county, and public
440 preelection inspectors, election monitors, preelection
441 certification audits, and postelection certification procedural
442 audits. The rules shall include:

443 (a) Reporting during and after the election cycle.

444 (b) Video viewing, video streaming of all ballot
445 processing, video recording storage, and public records requests
446 for video recordings.

447 (c) In-person observation.

448 (d) United States Postal Service liaison and monitoring.

449 (e) A ballot accounting report that shall be completed by
450 the supervisor and reviewed by the canvassing board before

451 election certification. The ballot accounting report shall
452 reconcile:

453 1. The number of ballots tabulated in precincts, the
454 number of voters that checked in, and the number of ballots
455 counted during each day of early voting and election day.

456 2. The number of absentee ballots tabulated in the
457 absentee vote processing location each day and the chain of
458 custody form ballot totals from secure ballot intake stations,
459 the United States Postal Service, facsimile logs, and in-person
460 drop off each day.

461 3. The number of absentee ballots mailed out equals the
462 number of outbound ballots billed by the post office.

463 4. The number of ballots acquired or printed, including
464 ballot-on-demand ballots, equals the number of ballots used,
465 unused, spoiled, duplicated, and unreturned.

466 (f) Audits must be conducted by bipartisan state and
467 county audit teams with public observation to confirm that the
468 required chain of custody forms and processes are in compliance.
469 Such audits shall include examination of post office billing
470 records, fax logs, and chain of custody forms. The rules must
471 provide for disciplinary actions and criminal referrals when
472 appropriate. The rules shall require that if it is determined in
473 a postcertification audit that the number of ballots involved in
474 chain of custody breaches in an election exceed the margin of
475 victory in any race in that election, such race shall be deemed

476 invalid and a special election must be held to fill the office
477 in accordance with chapter 100. If an audit failure is
478 determined to be due to chain of custody mismanagement, an audit
479 failure report shall be generated by the Secretary of State and
480 made available to the public and the supervisor may be
481 disciplined or removed from office.

482 (7) The Department of State shall adopt rules that include
483 manual cross-checks for legacy systems and systems that have
484 networking or other communication capability to ensure that such
485 systems have not been compromised by unauthorized changes in
486 settings, data manipulation, or malware. The rules must include:

487 (a) Early voting sites shall reconcile and report daily at
488 the close of authorized voting hours the:

489 1. Number of ballots tabulated by precinct tabulator as
490 calculated by subtracting the cumulative tabulator count at the
491 end of the prior day from the cumulative count of the current
492 day.

493 2. Number of completed ballots processed through the
494 precinct tabulator and transported to storage.

495 3. Number of voters who checked in to the precinct.

496 4. Number of blank ballots processed through precinct
497 tabulator. All blank ballots must be placed in a separate
498 envelope to enable auditing.

499 (b) After the polls are closed on the first day of early
500 voting and on election day, precinct poll workers shall conduct

501 a hand-count audit of both a randomly chosen race and the race
502 for the highest office on the ballot. In view of the public,
503 ballots shall be placed in stacks according to the candidate
504 chosen on the ballots for that race. Those ballots shall be
505 hand-counted by a poll worker from each of the two largest
506 political parties and the candidate choice verified. This
507 process must be repeated as necessary until the hand count
508 totals from each poll worker match. Hand count totals must be
509 noted and compared to the machine count. Any discrepancies must
510 be flagged and reported to the supervisor of elections office
511 and posted for the public. The supervisor must verify any
512 discrepancies over the next 3 days with interested members of
513 the public and at least one person from each major political
514 party present. If the supervisor determines that there is a
515 discrepancy, all ballots for the entire precinct must be hand
516 counted and those results, once verified, shall override the
517 machine count.

518 (c) During each day of absentee ballot canvassing,
519 election workers shall at least once daily conduct hand-count
520 cross-checks for each tabulator of a randomly chosen race on
521 batches of ballots. In view of the public, ballots must be
522 placed in stacks according to the candidate chosen on the
523 ballots for that race. Those ballots shall be hand counted and
524 verified and any discrepancies flagged, reported, and verified
525 according to the process required under paragraph (b). If the

526 supervisor determines that there is a discrepancy, all ballots
527 for the entire precinct must be hand counted and those results,
528 once verified, shall override the machine count. Any tabulator
529 that produces erroneous results must be taken out of service
530 until the cause of the error is determined and corrected. When
531 random batches are analyzed the contents of output sorter bins
532 must be inspected to validate proper sorting.

533 (d) If an automated signature verification system is used,
534 the settings must be verified and documented four times each
535 day. The settings shall be corrected if the settings are found
536 to be out of compliance. After such verification and, if
537 necessary, correction, signatures on 20 voter certificates must
538 be compared manually to determine if the signature verification
539 algorithm is functioning properly. If there is a discrepancy,
540 signatures must be verified manually until the system is
541 replaced or the cause of the issue is determined and corrected.
542 The employee performing this verification must sign and print
543 his or her name, the date, the time, and the outcome.

544 (e) If an automated target duplication is utilized, four
545 times each day, 20 original ballots must be compared to the
546 original ballot displayed on the duplication machine console to
547 ensure that the ballot is correctly displayed. If the display is
548 inconsistent, duplication must be completed manually until the
549 cause of the issue is determined and corrected.

550 (f) If an outbound mail assembly and sorter is used, the

551 transfer of outgoing ballots from the dock shall be under video
552 surveillance. After each batch is assembled and sorted, the
553 batch report quantity must be compared to the number of ballots
554 received at the dock as determined by weight.

555 (g) If an inbound mail sorter is utilized, the number of
556 inbound envelopes processed daily must be compared to the number
557 of ballots received at the dock as documented in chain of
558 custody forms from secure ballot intake stations and the United
559 States Postal Service.

560 (h) The voter registration database must be analyzed
561 monthly for registration anomalies. Any anomalies shall be
562 investigated and corrected. The database must be backed up daily
563 using a method that preserves the history of any changes made in
564 a manner that allows for restoration to previous versions of the
565 history at any time. The supervisor shall use a department-
566 approved storage device that uses technologies such as write
567 once, read many, or "WORM," as appropriate. The supervisor must
568 immediately, automatically, and securely transmit to the
569 department an identical copy of the database backup. The
570 supervisor and the department must each retain the database
571 backup for at least 5 years. Such backups may be used by
572 internal auditors, independent third party auditors, major
573 political parties, and the public for the purpose of auditing
574 voter registration transactions.

575 (i) Any changes or additions made in the 60-day period

576 preceding election day must be tracked and audited by an
577 independent auditor. Audit reports shall be made available to
578 the public at no charge and must include mode and location of
579 unauthorized new registrations, registration updates, or
580 deletions occurring in the 60-day period preceding election day,
581 and the voted status of every registrant registered to vote in
582 the election. A person may not be removed from the voter roll
583 until the audit is complete. An archived dataset shall be
584 maintained of persons removed from the voter roll which includes
585 each person's voting history for auditing purposes. The archived
586 dataset shall be included on request with any distribution of
587 the voter roll.

588 (j) If new technologies are tested during an election, the
589 supervisor shall post, in a conspicuous location visible to the
590 public within the vote counting center and all election
591 locations, a notice providing the location, date, and time of
592 such testing. All machines and election equipment in testing
593 shall clearly be labeled as such.

594 (k) Procedures for manual counts, which must include for
595 video recording and public observation. ~~a detailed description~~
596 ~~of procedures to create a complete written record of the chain~~
597 ~~of custody of ballots and paper outputs beginning with their~~
598 ~~receipt from a printer or manufacturer until such time as they~~
599 ~~are destroyed.~~

600 ~~2. Transport of ballots, including a description of the~~

601 ~~method and equipment used and a detailed list of the names of~~
602 ~~all individuals involved in such transport.~~

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

609 (8) (a) (b) 1. Each supervisor shall establish written
610 procedures to assure accuracy and security in his or her county,
611 including procedures related to early voting pursuant to s.
612 101.657. Such procedures shall be reviewed in each odd-numbered
613 year by the department.

614 (b) 2. Each supervisor shall submit any revisions to the
615 security procedures to the department at least 45 days before
616 early voting commences pursuant to s. 101.657 in an election in
617 which they are to take effect.

618 (10) (6) All electronic and electromechanical voting
619 systems purchased on or after January 1, 1990, must meet the
620 minimum standards established under subsection (1). All
621 electronic and electromechanical voting systems in use on or
622 after July 1, 1993, must meet the minimum standards established
623 under subsection (1) or subsection (9) ~~(5)~~.

624 Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section
625 101.131, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

626 101.131 Watchers at polls.—

627 (1) Each political party, political action committee,
 628 political committee, and ~~each~~ candidate may have one watcher in
 629 each polling room or early voting area at any one time during
 630 the election. A political committee formed for the specific
 631 purpose of expressly advocating the passage or defeat of an
 632 issue on the ballot may have one watcher for each polling room
 633 or early voting area at any one time during the election. A ~~No~~
 634 watcher may ~~shall be permitted to~~ come as close ~~closer~~ to the
 635 officials' table, tabulator, secure ballot intake station, or
 636 ~~the~~ voting booths as ~~than~~ is reasonably necessary to properly
 637 perform his or her functions, and ~~but each~~ shall be allowed
 638 within the polling room or early voting area to watch and
 639 observe the conduct of electors and officials. The poll watchers
 640 shall furnish their own materials and necessities and shall not
 641 obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. The poll watchers
 642 shall pose any questions regarding polling place procedures
 643 directly to the clerk for resolution. Poll watchers ~~They~~ may not
 644 interact with voters. Each poll watcher shall be a qualified and
 645 registered elector of the county in which he or she serves.

646 (2) Each political party, political action committee, ~~each~~
 647 political committee, and ~~each~~ candidate requesting to have poll
 648 watchers shall designate, in writing to the supervisors of
 649 elections, on a form prescribed by the division, before noon of
 650 the second Tuesday preceding the election poll watchers for each

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651 polling room on election day. Designations of poll watchers for
652 early voting areas shall be submitted in writing to the
653 supervisor of elections, on a form prescribed by the division,
654 before noon on the 5th business day ~~at least 14 days~~ before
655 early voting begins. The poll watchers for polling rooms shall
656 be approved by the supervisor of elections on or before the
657 Tuesday before the election. Poll watchers for early voting
658 areas shall be approved by the supervisor of elections no later
659 than 7 days before early voting begins. The supervisor shall
660 furnish to each election board a list of the poll watchers
661 designated and approved for such polling rooms or early voting
662 areas. Designation of poll watchers shall be made by the chair
663 of the county executive committee of a political party, the
664 chair of a political action committee, the chair of a political
665 committee, or the candidate requesting to have poll watchers.

666 (5) The supervisor of elections shall provide to each
667 designated poll watcher an identification badge which identifies
668 the poll watcher by first name and last initial. Each poll
669 watcher must wear his or her identification badge while
670 performing his or her duties. A poll watcher may not wear
671 another poll watcher's identification badge. A poll watcher who
672 wears another poll watcher's identification badge shall be
673 reported to the supervisor and may be removed from the premises
674 for the day.

675 Section 4. Section 101.132, Florida Statutes, is created

676 to read:

677 101.132 Watchers at absentee vote processing locations.-

678 (1) Each political party, political action committee,
679 political committee, and candidate may designate one absentee
680 vote processing watcher to observe in each of the following work
681 areas of the absentee vote counting location or any other
682 location at any time during the election process where the
683 following functions are performed:

684 (a) Outgoing ballot assembly, sorting, and mailing.

685 (b) Secure ballot intake stations.

686 (c) Transport vehicle loading and unloading.

687 (d) Incoming ballot receiving and sorting.

688 (e) An automated voter certificate envelope signature
689 verification process.

690 (f) A manual voter certificate envelope signature review
691 process.

692 (g) Staff signature review of cure affidavits.

693 (h) Voter certificate envelope opening.

694 (i) Duplication.

695 (j) Tabulation.

696 (2) (a) Each work area shall be designed and arranged in
697 advance by the supervisor to provide adequate space for at least
698 four watchers at any given time. Different watchers may observe
699 simultaneously on behalf of a candidate, political party,
700 political action committee, or political committee in different

701 work areas.

702 (b) If more than two party, political action committee,
703 political committee, or candidate watchers are designated to
704 observe in a specified work area with limited space in the same
705 time period, the first two watchers from each major party for
706 which designations are received shall be allowed to observe.

707 (c) Two public watchers may also be present in each work
708 area at any given time. If more than two public watchers request
709 to observe in a specified work area with limited space in the
710 same time period, the first two watchers from different
711 political parties for which requests are received shall be
712 allowed to observe.

713 (d) If a work area is not large enough to accommodate at
714 least four watchers, the supervisor may employ alternate methods
715 to enable meaningful observation by a watcher, including the use
716 of video, mirrored displays, cat walks, or viewing windows. The
717 department must provide criteria for determining whether an
718 alternate observation method enables meaningful observation.

719 (e) When direct observation of manual processes or machine
720 operators is conducted, each work area is limited to one watcher
721 for each staff member conducting operations.

722 (f) Work area watchers may come as close as is reasonably
723 necessary to properly observe workers and technology without
724 impeding workflow. The absentee vote processing location
725 watchers shall furnish their own materials and necessities and

726 may not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. Watchers
727 shall pose any questions regarding absentee vote processing
728 procedures directly to the work area supervisor for resolution.
729 Watchers may not provide work direction to absentee vote
730 processing personnel, but may occasionally ask questions for
731 understanding and offer personal greetings. Each watcher must be
732 a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he or
733 she serves. The department must establish a telephone hotline
734 through which a watcher may report violations of law, including
735 required security standards, and submit a work ticket to a state
736 official.

737 (g) The department shall adopt by rule an absentee vote
738 processing manual that includes guidelines for meaningful
739 observation and reporting for all methods of observation.

740 (3)(a) The department shall prescribe an absentee vote
741 processing watcher request form that allows a person to request
742 to serve as an absentee vote processing watcher at any given
743 location and an absentee vote processing watcher designation
744 form that allows a candidate, political action committee,
745 political committee, or political party to designate a watcher
746 for a specific work area.

747 (b) A request to serve as a watcher for candidate,
748 political action committee, political committee, or political
749 party shall be accepted by the supervisor if received at least 5
750 days, including weekends, before the first day of requested

751 observation. A watcher may complete a form for multiple
752 candidates, political action committees, political committees,
753 or political parties. A watcher is not required to be a member
754 of or align with a political party to observe vote processing
755 activities.

756 (c) Public requests to be absentee vote processing
757 watchers shall be accepted by the supervisor if received at
758 least 5 days, including weekends, before the first day of
759 requested observation. A watcher may alternate between work
760 areas and participate on any day of the absentee vote counting
761 process without notice.

762 (d) Different watchers may observe election activities
763 occurring simultaneously on behalf of any candidate, political
764 party, political action committee, or political committee. A
765 watcher who has previously completed an absentee vote processing
766 watcher request form that is filed with the supervisor may
767 substitute for another watcher without prior notice.

768 (e) A watcher may be relieved by another watcher
769 designated for the same political party, political action
770 committee, political committee, or candidate whenever necessary.

771 (f) The supervisor shall furnish to each canvassing board
772 member a list of watchers for whom an absentee vote processing
773 watcher request form has been approved and for whom an absentee
774 vote processing watcher designation form has been received.
775 Designation forms shall be completed by the chair of the county

776 executive committee of each political party, chair of a
 777 political action committee, chair of a political committee, or
 778 candidate.

779 (4) No candidate or sheriff, deputy sheriff, police
 780 officer, or other law enforcement officer may be designated as
 781 an absentee vote processing watcher.

782 (5) An absentee vote processing watcher may enter into and
 783 watch operations in any work area listed in subsection (1) if
 784 the number of watchers in the work area does not exceed the
 785 number recommended by the department or the voting center
 786 capacity safety recommendations by the local fire department.

787 (6) The supervisor of elections shall provide to each
 788 designated absentee vote processing watcher an identification
 789 badge that identifies the watcher by first name and last
 790 initial. Each watcher must wear his or her identification badge
 791 while performing his or her duties. The designated absentee vote
 792 processing watcher badge must be surrendered to the supervisor
 793 at the end of the day.

794 Section 5. Section 101.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 795 read:

796 101.21 Official ballots; number; printing; payment.—

797 (1) ~~Where applicable,~~ The supervisor of elections shall
 798 determine the actual number of ballots and voter certificate
 799 envelopes to be printed for each election. The ballots and voter
 800 certificate envelopes must be sourced from different vendors and

801 the voter certificate envelopes must have serial numbers or
802 other markings that may be used to detect unauthorized printing
803 or submission of illegal envelopes.

804 (2) The supervisor of elections must complete a ballot,
805 envelope, and seal accounting report before an election may be
806 certified. The ballot, envelope, and seal accounting report must
807 reconcile the number of ballots printed by an official printer
808 or in-house with the number of ballots:

809 (a) Distributed to absentee voters.

810 (b) Distributed to in-person voting sites.

811 (c) Completed and received from absentee voters.

812 (d) Completed and received from in-person voting sites.

813 (e) Distributed but not returned from absentee voters.

814 (f) Distributed and returned unvoted from in-person voting
815 sites.

816 (g) Not distributed.

817 (h) Spoiled.

818 (i) Used for duplication.

819 (j) Placed in storage at the end of the election as voted
820 or unvoted.

821 (3) Review and approval of the ballot, envelope, and seal
822 accounting report shall be completed and reconciled by the
823 county canvassing board before the election is certified and by
824 a state or county auditing team after the election is certified.
825 Purchase order records of marksense paper, ballots, and

826 envelopes as well as print-on-demand and facsimile records shall
 827 be made available to auditors and the public at no charge.

828 (4) The printing and delivery of ballots and cards of
 829 instruction shall, in a municipal election, be paid for by the
 830 municipality, and in all other elections by the county.

831 Section 6. Section 101.545, Florida Statutes, is amended
 832 to read:

833 101.545 Retention and destruction of certain election
 834 materials.—All ballots, envelopes, seals, video recordings,
 835 forms, and other election materials shall be retained in the
 836 custody of the supervisor of elections for a minimum of 22
 837 months after an election and in accordance with the schedule
 838 approved by the Division of Library and Information Services of
 839 the Department of State. All unused ballots, envelopes, seals,
 840 forms, and other election materials may, with the approval of
 841 the Department of State, be destroyed by the supervisor after
 842 the election for which such ballots, envelopes, seals, forms, or
 843 other election materials were to be used after a
 844 postcertification audit is completed and published on the
 845 supervisor's website.

846 Section 7. Section 101.5614, Florida Statutes, is amended
 847 to read:

848 101.5614 Canvass of returns.—

849 (1) As soon as the polls are closed, the election board
 850 shall secure the voting devices against further voting. The

851 election board shall thereafter, in the presence of members of
852 the public desiring to witness the proceedings, verify the
853 number of voted ballots, unused ballots, provisional ballots,
854 and spoiled ballots to ascertain whether such number corresponds
855 with the number of ballots issued by the supervisor. If there is
856 a difference, this fact shall be reported in writing to the
857 county canvassing board with the reasons therefor if known. The
858 total number of voted ballots shall be entered on the forms
859 provided. The number of ballots processed through the tabulator
860 on election day, the number of blank ballots processed through
861 the tabulator, and the number of persons checking in at the
862 precinct shall also be entered on the forms provided. Precinct
863 poll workers shall then conduct a hand-count audit of a randomly
864 chosen race. Ballots must be placed in stacks according to the
865 candidate chosen on the ballots for that race. Those ballots
866 shall be hand-counted by two poll workers from different
867 political parties and candidate choice verified in the process.
868 Totals shall be noted and compared to the machine count. Any
869 discrepancies must be flagged and reported to the supervisor of
870 elections office and noted on the poll tape posted for the
871 public. The supervisor must verifying any discrepancies over the
872 next 3 days with interested members of the public and a member
873 of each party present. If the supervisor determines that there
874 is a discrepancy, all ballots for the entire precinct must be
875 hand counted using the original paper ballots and those results,

876 once verified, shall override the machine counts. The number of
877 tickets printed to receive ballots must be compared with the
878 number of persons noted by the electronic precinct register
879 system as checked in and any discrepancies must be resolved or
880 documented. The proceedings of the election board at the
881 precinct after the polls have closed shall be open to the
882 public; however, no person except a member of the election board
883 shall touch any ballot or ballot container or interfere with or
884 obstruct the orderly count of the ballots.

885 (2) The results of ballots tabulated at precinct locations
886 may be provided to the county canvassing board ~~transmitted to~~
887 ~~the main computer system~~ for the purpose of reconciliation of
888 chain of custody and compilation of complete returns. The
889 tabulator may not use networking communication hardware.
890 However, the supervisor may collect preliminary precinct
891 election results data from tabulators using a portable storage
892 device secure from manipulation, such as a write once, read
893 many, or "WORM," device, and insert the data into a secure
894 computer dedicated to transmitting such data to the elections
895 office. The security guidelines for transmission of returns
896 shall conform to rules adopted by the Department of State
897 pursuant to s. 101.015.

898 (3) For each ballot or ballot image on which write-in
899 votes have been cast, the canvassing board shall compare the
900 write-in votes with the votes cast on the ballot; if the total

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901 number of votes for any office exceeds the number allowed by
902 law, such votes shall not be counted. All valid votes shall be
903 tallied by the canvassing board.

904 (4)(a) If any vote-by-mail ballot is physically damaged so
905 that it cannot properly be counted by the voting system's
906 automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be
907 made of the damaged ballot in an open and accessible room in the
908 presence of watchers from at least two different political
909 parties ~~witnesses~~ and substituted for the damaged ballot.
910 Likewise, a duplicate ballot shall be made of a vote-by-mail
911 ballot containing an overvoted race if there is a clear
912 indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite
913 choice in the overvoted race or ballot measure. A duplicate
914 shall include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing
915 board based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s.
916 102.166(8) ~~s. 102.166(4)~~. A duplicate may be made of a ballot
917 containing an undervoted race or ballot measure if there is a
918 clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a
919 definite choice in the undervoted race or ballot measure. A
920 duplicate may not include a vote if the voter's intent in such
921 race or on such measure is not clear. Upon request, candidates,
922 political party officials, and political committee officials,
923 and authorized designees thereof, and public watchers ~~a~~
924 ~~physically present candidate, a political party official, a~~
925 ~~political committee official, or an authorized designee thereof,~~

926 | must be allowed to observe the duplication of ballots upon
927 | signing an affidavit affirming his or her acknowledgment that
928 | disclosure of election results discerned from observing the
929 | ballot duplication process while the election is ongoing is a
930 | felony, as provided under subsection (8). The observer must be
931 | allowed to observe the duplication of ballots in such a way that
932 | the observer is able to see the markings on each ballot and the
933 | duplication taking place. All duplicate ballots must be clearly
934 | labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be
935 | recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the
936 | defective ballot. The duplication of ballots must happen in the
937 | presence of at least one canvassing board member and watchers
938 | from at least two different political parties. After a ballot
939 | has been duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in an
940 | envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate ballot
941 | shall be tallied with the other ballots for that precinct. If
942 | any observer makes a reasonable objection to a duplicate of a
943 | ballot, the ballot must be presented to the canvassing board for
944 | a determination of the validity of the duplicate. The canvassing
945 | board must document the serial number of the ballot in the
946 | canvassing board's minutes. The canvassing board must decide
947 | whether the duplication is valid. If the duplicate ballot is
948 | determined to be valid, the duplicate ballot must be counted. If
949 | the duplicate ballot is determined to be invalid, the duplicate
950 | ballot must be rejected and a proper duplicate ballot must be

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951 made and counted in lieu of the original.

952 (b) A true duplicate copy shall be made of each federal
953 write-in absentee ballot in the presence of watchers ~~witnesses~~
954 and substituted for the federal write-in absentee ballot. A
955 duplicate may be made by hand duplication observed by watchers
956 of both major political parties. The duplicate ballot must
957 include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing board
958 based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s. 102.166(8)
959 ~~s. 102.166(4)~~. All duplicate ballots shall be clearly labeled
960 "duplicate," bear a serial number that shall be recorded on the
961 federal write-in absentee ballot, and be counted in lieu of the
962 federal write-in absentee ballot. After a ballot has been
963 duplicated, the federal write-in absentee ballot shall be placed
964 in an envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate
965 ballot shall be tallied with other ballots for that precinct.

966 (5) If there is no clear indication on the ballot that the
967 voter has made a definite choice for an office or ballot
968 measure, the elector's ballot shall not be counted for that
969 office or measure, but the ballot shall not be invalidated as to
970 those names or measures which are properly marked.

971 (6) Vote-by-mail ballots may be counted by the voting
972 system's automatic tabulating equipment if they have been marked
973 in a manner which will enable them to be properly counted by
974 such equipment.

975 (7) The return printed by the voting system's automatic

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976 tabulating equipment, to which has been added the return of
977 write-in, vote-by-mail, and manually counted votes and votes
978 from provisional ballots, shall constitute the official return
979 of the election upon certification by the canvassing board. Upon
980 completion of the count, the returns shall be open to the
981 public. A copy of the returns may be posted at the central
982 counting place or at the office of the supervisor of elections
983 in lieu of the posting of returns at individual precincts.

984 (8) Any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of
985 elections, canvassing board member, election board member,
986 election employee, or other person authorized to observe,
987 review, or inspect ballot materials or observe canvassing who
988 releases any information about votes cast for or against any
989 candidate or ballot measure or any results of any election
990 before the closing of the polls in that county on election day
991 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in
992 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

993 (9) The county canvassing board shall officially convene
994 in the presence of candidate, designees of political action
995 committees, political committees, or political parties, and the
996 public to discuss all election results and the necessary next
997 steps required to officially determine election results,
998 including recounts, runoffs, hand counts, audits or any other
999 activities necessary before certification of the election.

1000 Section 8. Subsection (4) is added to section 101.595,

1001 Florida Statutes, to read:

1002 101.595 Analysis and reports of voting problems.—

1003 (4) A postcertification procedural audit must be conducted

1004 after each election. The department shall adopt rules for the

1005 conduct of such audit, which must include the audit of each of

1006 the following:

1007 (a) Chain of custody forms and procedures.

1008 (b) Signature verification on vote-by-mail ballot

1009 requests, voter certificate envelopes, and curing.

1010 (c) Handling of public inspector protests and challenges.

1011 (d) Canvassing board duties.

1012 (e) Physical security.

1013 (f) All blank ballots, under-voted ballots, overvoted

1014 ballots, provisional ballots, and all other ballots that were

1015 separated from the main bin by the tabulator or that require

1016 separate adjudication or handling for any reason. Such ballots

1017 must be hand-counted to ensure the number of ballots equals the

1018 number shown on the reports.

1019 (g) Seal accounting and management.

1020 Section 9. Section 101.6103, Florida Statutes, is amended

1021 to read:

1022 101.6103 Mail ballot election procedure.—

1023 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the

1024 supervisor of elections shall mail all official ballots with a

1025 voter certificate envelope, an identification ~~secrecy~~ envelope,

1026 a return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to
1027 describe the voting process to each elector entitled to vote in
1028 the election within the timeframes specified in s. 101.62(3).
1029 All such ballots must be mailed by first-class mail. If the
1030 supervisor of election pays return ballot postage, two United
1031 States Postal Service permit billing accounts must be used, with
1032 one account used solely for outbound ballots and the other
1033 account solely used for returned ballots. Ballots must be
1034 addressed to each elector at the address appearing in the
1035 registration records and placed in an envelope which is
1036 prominently marked "Return Service Requested ~~Do Not Forward~~."
1037 (2) Upon receipt of the ballot the elector shall read the
1038 instructions, mark the ballot, place only the completed ballot
1039 in the voter certificate ~~it in the secrecy~~ envelope, sign his or
1040 her name as it appears in the voter registration system on the
1041 signature line on the return mailing envelope supplied with the
1042 ballot, and comply with the instructions provided with the
1043 ballot. The elector shall place a copy of the required
1044 identification into the identification envelope and place the
1045 voter certificate envelope and the identification envelope into
1046 the return mailing envelope. Alternatively, the voter may place
1047 the voter certificate envelope in a voter provided envelope and
1048 send it by registered mail at the voter's expense to the
1049 supervisor of election's office or the address listed on the
1050 return envelope. The elector shall mail, deliver, or have

1051 delivered the marked ballot so that it reaches the supervisor of
 1052 elections no later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. The
 1053 ballot must be returned in the sealed and signed voter
 1054 certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope.

1055 (3) The voter certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope shall
 1056 contain a statement in substantially the following form:

1057
 1058 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

1059 I, ...(Print Name)..., do solemnly swear (or
 1060 affirm) that I am a qualified voter in this election
 1061 and that I have not and will not vote more than one
 1062 ballot in this election.

1063 I understand that failure to sign this
 1064 certificate and give my residence address will
 1065 invalidate my ballot.

1066 ...(Date)...

1067 ...(Printed Name)

1068 ...(Signature)...

1069 ...(Residence Address)...

1070 ...(E-mail Address [Optional])...

1071 ...(Home Telephone Number [Optional])...

1072 ...(Cellular Telephone Number [Optional])...

1073
 1074 (4) If the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not
 1075 received by the elector, the elector may obtain a replacement

1076 ballot from the supervisor of elections as provided in this
1077 subsection. An elector seeking a replacement ballot shall
1078 provide tier 1 identification and sign a sworn statement that
1079 the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received and
1080 present such statement to the supervisor of elections before
1081 ~~prior to~~ 7 p.m. on the day of the election. The supervisor of
1082 elections shall verify the signature on the sworn statement and
1083 keep a record of each replacement ballot provided under this
1084 subsection.

1085 (5) A ballot shall be counted only if:

1086 (a) It is returned in the voter certificate ~~return mailing~~
1087 envelope bearing the elector's signature;

1088 (b) A copy of a photo identification is placed into the
1089 identification envelope and, if the voter is required to provide
1090 additional documentation under s. 101.68, such documentation is
1091 placed into the identification envelope;

1092 (c) The voter certificate envelope and the identification
1093 envelope are placed into the return mailing envelope or a voter-
1094 provided envelope that is sent by registered mail to the
1095 supervisor of election's office or the address listed on the
1096 return mailing envelope;

1097 (d) ~~(b)~~ The elector's signature has been verified as
1098 provided in this subsection; and

1099 (e) ~~(e)~~ It is received by the supervisor of elections not
1100 later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election.

1101
1102 The supervisor of elections shall verify the signature of each
1103 elector on the voter certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope with
1104 the signature on the elector's registration records. Such
1105 verification may commence at any time before ~~prior to~~ the
1106 canvass of votes. The supervisor of elections shall safely keep
1107 the ballot stored in a secure area only accessible by electronic
1108 badge and under video surveillance ~~unopened in his or her office~~
1109 until the county canvassing board canvasses the vote. If the
1110 supervisor of elections determines that an elector to whom a
1111 replacement ballot has been issued under subsection (4) has
1112 voted more than once, the canvassing board shall determine which
1113 ballot, if any, is to be counted.

1114 (6) The canvassing board may begin the canvassing of mail
1115 ballots as provided by s. 101.68(2)(a). The criminal penalty
1116 specified in that paragraph for the release of results before 7
1117 p.m. on election day is also applicable to canvassing conducted
1118 under this act. The canvassing of mail ballots shall be open for
1119 public observation.

1120 (7) With respect to absent electors overseas entitled to
1121 vote in the election, the supervisor of elections shall mail an
1122 official ballot with a voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope, a
1123 return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to describe
1124 the voting process to each such elector on a date sufficient to
1125 allow such elector time to vote in the election and to have his

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1126 or her marked ballot reach the supervisor by 7 p.m. on the day
1127 of the election.

1128 (8) A ballot that otherwise satisfies the requirements of
1129 subsection (5) shall be counted even if the elector dies after
1130 mailing the ballot but before election day, as long as, before
1131 ~~prior to~~ the death of the voter, the ballot was:

1132 (a) Postmarked by the United States Postal Service;

1133 (b) Date-stamped with a verifiable tracking number by
1134 common carrier; or

1135 (c) Already in the possession of the supervisor of
1136 elections.

1137 Section 10. Section 101.6104, Florida Statutes, is amended
1138 to read:

1139 101.6104 Challenge of votes.—If any elector present for
1140 the canvass of votes believes that any ballot is illegal due to
1141 any defect apparent on the voter's certificate, the elector may,
1142 at any time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file
1143 with the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of such
1144 ballot, specifying the reason he or she believes the ballot to
1145 be illegal. No challenge based upon any defect on the voter's
1146 certificate shall be accepted after the ballot has been removed
1147 from the return mailing envelope. When a challenge of a voter
1148 certificate envelope or cure affidavit signature is received,
1149 the ballot shall be segregated; left uncounted and, if
1150 applicable, unopened; logged; and treated as provisional to be

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1151 reviewed before the end of canvassing. A challenger shall be
1152 given an identification number for the challenged ballot or
1153 envelope, as applicable. This identification number and the
1154 final disposition of the ballot must be logged for use in
1155 procedural audits.

1156 Section 11. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1),
1157 subsection (2), and paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
1158 101.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1159 101.62 Request for vote-by-mail ballots.—

1160 (1) REQUEST.—

1161 (a) The supervisor shall accept a request for a vote-by-
1162 mail ballot only from a voter or, if directly instructed by the
1163 voter, a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's
1164 legal guardian. A request may be made in person, in writing, by
1165 telephone, or through the supervisor's website. The department
1166 shall prescribe by rule by October 1, 2023, a uniform statewide
1167 application to make a written request for a vote-by-mail ballot
1168 which includes fields for all information required in this
1169 subsection. An allowed reason for requesting a vote-by-mail
1170 ballot must be provided and attested to. Allowable reasons
1171 include that the voter is confined to his or her home or
1172 otherwise physically unable to vote in person, which the voter
1173 must attest to by presenting an affidavit provided by a medical
1174 doctor; that the voter will be out of state during the entire
1175 voting period, which the voter must attest to by providing proof

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1176 of his or her out-of-state location; that the voter is 80 years
1177 of age or older; or that the voter is enrolled in an educational
1178 institution outside of the county in which he or she is
1179 registered, which the voter must attest to by providing proof of
1180 enrollment. One request is deemed sufficient to receive a vote-
1181 by-mail ballot for all elections through the end of the calendar
1182 year of the next regularly scheduled general election, unless
1183 the voter or the voter's designee indicates at the time the
1184 request is made the elections within such period for which the
1185 voter desires to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. The supervisor
1186 must cancel a request for a vote-by-mail ballot when any first-
1187 class return-service requested mail or nonforwardable mail sent
1188 by the supervisor to the voter is returned as undeliverable. If
1189 the voter requests a vote-by-mail ballot thereafter, the voter
1190 must provide or confirm his or her current residential address
1191 in a written request that includes the voter's signature and the
1192 voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's Florida
1193 identification card number, or the last four digits of the
1194 voter's social security number.

1195 (b) If the voter's request meets the criteria under
1196 paragraph (a), the supervisor may accept a request for a vote-
1197 by-mail ballot to be mailed to a voter's address on file in the
1198 Florida Voter Registration System from the voter, or, if
1199 directly instructed by the voter, a member of the voter's
1200 immediate family or the voter's legal guardian. If an in-person

1201 or a telephonic request is made, the voter must provide the
 1202 voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's Florida
 1203 identification card number, or the last four digits of the
 1204 voter's social security number, whichever may be verified in the
 1205 supervisor's records. If the ballot is requested to be mailed to
 1206 an address other than the voter's address on file in the Florida
 1207 Voter Registration System, the request must be made in writing.
 1208 A written request must be signed by the voter and include the
 1209 voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's Florida
 1210 identification card number, or the last four digits of the
 1211 voter's social security number. ~~However, an absent uniformed~~
 1212 ~~services voter or an overseas voter seeking a vote-by-mail~~
 1213 ~~ballot is not required to submit a signed, written request for a~~
 1214 ~~vote-by-mail ballot that is being mailed to an address other~~
 1215 ~~than the voter's address on file in the Florida Voter~~
 1216 ~~Registration System.~~ The person making the request must
 1217 disclose:

- 1218 1. The name of the voter for whom the ballot is requested.
- 1219 2. The voter's address.
- 1220 3. The voter's date of birth.
- 1221 4. The voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's
 1222 Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of
 1223 the voter's social security number, whichever may be verified in
 1224 the supervisor's records. If the voter's registration record
 1225 does not already include the voter's Florida driver license

1226 | number or Florida identification card number or the last four
 1227 | digits of the voter's social security number, the number
 1228 | provided must be recorded in the voter's registration record.

1229 | 5. The requester's name.

1230 | 6. The requester's address.

1231 | 7. The requester's driver license number, the requester's
 1232 | identification card number, or the last four digits of the
 1233 | requester's social security number, if available.

1234 | 8. The requester's relationship to the voter.

1235 | 9. The requester's signature (written requests only).

1236 | (2) ACCESS TO VOTE-BY-MAIL REQUEST INFORMATION.—For each
 1237 | request for a vote-by-mail ballot received, the supervisor shall
 1238 | record the following information: the date the request was made;
 1239 | the identity of the voter's designee making the request, if any;
 1240 | the Florida driver license number, Florida identification card
 1241 | number, or last four digits of the social security number of the
 1242 | voter provided with a written request; the date the vote-by-mail
 1243 | ballot was delivered to the voter or the voter's designee or the
 1244 | date the vote-by-mail ballot was delivered to the post office or
 1245 | other carrier; the address to which the ballot was mailed or the
 1246 | identity of the voter's designee to whom the ballot was
 1247 | delivered; the date the ballot was received by the supervisor;
 1248 | the absence of the voter's signature on the voter's certificate,
 1249 | if applicable; whether the voter's certificate contains a
 1250 | signature that does not match the voter's signature in the

1251 registration books or precinct register; whether the voter was
1252 notified of the signature mismatch and sent instructions to
1253 complete a cure affidavit; and such other information he or she
1254 may deem necessary. This information must be provided in
1255 electronic format as provided by division rule. The information
1256 must be updated and made available no later than 8 a.m. of each
1257 day, including weekends, beginning 60 days before the primary
1258 until 15 days after the general election and shall be
1259 contemporaneously provided to the division. This information is
1260 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and shall be made
1261 available to or reproduced only for the voter requesting the
1262 ballot, a canvassing board, an election official, a political
1263 party or official thereof, a candidate who has filed
1264 qualification papers and is opposed in an upcoming election, and
1265 registered political committees for political purposes only.

1266 (3) DELIVERY OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS.—

1267 (d) Upon a request for a vote-by-mail ballot, the
1268 supervisor shall provide a vote-by-mail ballot to each voter by
1269 whom a request for that ballot has been made, by one of the
1270 following means:

1271 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the
1272 voter's current mailing address on file with the supervisor or
1273 any other address the voter specifies in the request. The
1274 envelopes must be prominently marked "Return Service Requested
1275 ~~Do Not Forward.~~"

1276 2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine
 1277 transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas
 1278 voters. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter
 1279 may designate in the vote-by-mail ballot request the preferred
 1280 method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the
 1281 method of transmission, the vote-by-mail ballot must be mailed.

1282 3. By personal delivery to the voter after vote-by-mail
 1283 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day upon
 1284 presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043.

1285 4. By delivery to the voter's designee after vote-by-mail
 1286 ballots have been mailed and up to 7 p.m. on election day. Any
 1287 voter may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot
 1288 for the voter; however, the person designated may not pick up
 1289 more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election, other than the
 1290 designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be
 1291 picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. The
 1292 designee shall provide to the supervisor the written
 1293 authorization by the voter and a picture identification of the
 1294 designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall
 1295 state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the
 1296 voter to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the voter is
 1297 a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the
 1298 relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the
 1299 affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is
 1300 authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the

1301 voter on the written authorization matches the signature of the
 1302 voter on file, the supervisor must give the ballot to that
 1303 designee for delivery to the voter.

1304 5. Except as provided in s. 101.655, the supervisor may
 1305 not deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to a voter or a voter's
 1306 designee pursuant to subparagraph 3. or subparagraph 4.,
 1307 respectively, during the mandatory early voting period and up to
 1308 7 p.m. on election day, unless there is an emergency, to the
 1309 extent that the voter will be unable to go to a designated early
 1310 voting site in his or her county or to his or her assigned
 1311 polling place on election day. If a vote-by-mail ballot is
 1312 delivered, the voter or his or her designee must execute an
 1313 affidavit affirming to the facts which allow for delivery of the
 1314 vote-by-mail ballot. The department shall adopt a rule providing
 1315 for the form of the affidavit.

1316 Section 12. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) and
 1317 subsection (5) of section 101.64, Florida Statutes, are amended
 1318 to read:

1319 101.64 Delivery of vote-by-mail ballots; envelopes; form.—

1320 (1)(a) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
 1321 ballot instructions on completing and returning a ballot, a
 1322 voter certificate envelope, an identification envelope, and a
 1323 return ~~two envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the absent-~~
 1324 ~~elector shall enclose his or her marked ballot; and a mailing~~
 1325 envelope, into which the absent elector shall then place the

1326 | voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope, which shall be addressed to
 1327 | the supervisor and also bear on the back side a certificate in
 1328 | substantially the following form:

1329 |
 1330 | Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before
 1331 | Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

1332 | VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

1333 | I,, do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a
 1334 | qualified and registered voter of County,
 1335 | Florida, and that I have not and will not vote more
 1336 | than one ballot in this election. I understand that if
 1337 | I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in connection
 1338 | with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more
 1339 | than once in an election, I can be convicted of a
 1340 | felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000
 1341 | and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years. I also understand
 1342 | that failure to sign this certificate will invalidate
 1343 | my ballot.

1344 | ...(Date)...

1345 | ...(Voter's Printed Name)...

1346 | ...(Voter's Signature)...

1347 | ...(E-Mail Address) [Optional]...

1348 | ...(Home Telephone Number) [Optional] ...

1349 | ...(Mobile Telephone Number) [Optional]...

1350 |

1351 (c) A mailing envelope or voter certificate ~~secrecy~~
 1352 envelope may not bear any indication of the political
 1353 affiliation of an absent elector.

1354 (5) The voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope must include,
 1355 in bold font, substantially the following message:
 1356

1357 IN ORDER FOR YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT TO COUNT, YOUR
 1358 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS MUST RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT BY 7
 1359 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. IF YOU WAIT TO MAIL YOUR BALLOT,
 1360 YOUR VOTE MIGHT NOT COUNT. TO PREVENT THIS FROM
 1361 OCCURRING, PLEASE MAIL OR TURN IN YOUR BALLOT AS SOON
 1362 AS POSSIBLE.
 1363

1364 Section 13. Section 101.65, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1365 to read:

1366 101.65 Instructions to absent electors.—The supervisor
 1367 shall enclose with each vote-by-mail ballot separate printed
 1368 instructions in substantially the following form; however, where
 1369 the instructions appear in capitalized text, the text of the
 1370 printed instructions must be in bold font:
 1371

1372 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
 1373 BEFORE MARKING BALLOT.

1374 1. VERY IMPORTANT. In order to ensure that your
 1375 vote-by-mail ballot will be counted, it should be

1376 completed and returned as soon as possible so that it
1377 can reach the supervisor of elections of the county in
1378 which your precinct is located no later than 7 p.m. on
1379 the day of the election. However, if you are an
1380 overseas voter casting a ballot in a presidential
1381 preference primary or general election, your vote-by-
1382 mail ballot must be postmarked or dated no later than
1383 the date of the election and received by the
1384 supervisor of elections of the county in which you are
1385 registered to vote no later than 10 days after the
1386 date of the election. Note that the later you return
1387 your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any
1388 signature deficiencies, which is authorized until 5
1389 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election.

1390 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on
1391 the ballot. You must mark your own ballot unless you
1392 are unable to do so because of blindness, disability,
1393 or inability to read or write.

1394 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue
1395 choices for a race as indicated on the ballot. If you
1396 are allowed to "Vote for One" candidate and you vote
1397 for more than one candidate, your vote in that race
1398 will not be counted.

1399 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed
1400 voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelope. Completely fill

1401 out the voter's certificate on the back of the voter
 1402 certificate envelope.

1403 5. Insert a copy of your photo identification in
 1404 the identification envelope. The following photo
 1405 identifications are acceptable if you are not a first-
 1406 time voter: Florida driver license; Florida
 1407 identification card issued by the Department of
 1408 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; United States
 1409 passport; debit or credit card; military
 1410 identification; student identification; public
 1411 assistance identification; veteran health
 1412 identification card issued by the United States
 1413 Department of Veterans Affairs; a license to carry a
 1414 concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s.
 1415 790.06; or an employee identification card issued by
 1416 any branch, department, agency, or entity of the
 1417 Federal Government, the state, a county, or a
 1418 municipality.

1419 ~~6.5.~~ Insert the voter certificate envelope and
 1420 the identification ~~secrecy~~ envelope into the enclosed
 1421 mailing envelope which is addressed to the supervisor.

1422 ~~7.6.~~ Seal the mailing envelope and completely
 1423 ~~fill out the Voter's Certificate on the back of the~~
 1424 ~~mailing envelope.~~

1425 ~~8.7.~~ VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-

1426 mail ballot to be counted, you must sign your name on
1427 the line above (Voter's Signature). If your signature
1428 does not appear on the designated signature line
1429 adjacent to the voter certificate oath on the voter's
1430 certificate, you are required to complete a cure
1431 affidavit to validate your signature. A vote-by-mail
1432 ballot will be considered illegal and not be counted
1433 if the signature on the voter's certificate does not
1434 match the signature on record. The signature on file
1435 at the time the supervisor of elections in the county
1436 in which your precinct is located receives your vote-
1437 by-mail ballot is the signature that will be used to
1438 verify your signature on the voter's certificate. If
1439 you need to update your signature for this election,
1440 send your signature update on a voter registration
1441 application to your supervisor of elections so that it
1442 is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is
1443 received.

1444 ~~9.8.~~ VERY IMPORTANT. If you are an overseas
1445 voter, you must include the date you signed the
1446 Voter's Certificate on the line above (Date) or your
1447 ballot may not be counted.

1448 ~~10.9.~~ Mail, deliver, or have delivered the
1449 completed mailing envelope. Be sure there is
1450 sufficient postage if mailed. THE COMPLETED MAILING

1451 ENVELOPE CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE
 1452 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR
 1453 PRECINCT IS LOCATED OR DROPPED OFF AT AN AUTHORIZED
 1454 SECURE BALLOT INTAKE STATION, AVAILABLE AT EACH EARLY
 1455 VOTING LOCATION.

1456 11.10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under
 1457 Florida law to accept any gift, payment, or gratuity
 1458 in exchange for your vote for a candidate. It is also
 1459 a felony under Florida law to vote in an election
 1460 using a false identity or false address, or under any
 1461 other circumstances making your ballot false or
 1462 fraudulent.

1463
 1464 Section 14. Section 101.655, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1465 to read:

1466 101.655 Supervised voting by absent electors in certain
 1467 facilities.—

1468 (1) The supervisor of elections of a county shall provide
 1469 bipartisan supervised voting for absent electors residing in any
 1470 assisted living facility, as defined in s. 429.02, or nursing
 1471 home facility, as defined in s. 400.021, within that county at
 1472 the request of an elector living in the facility or the power of
 1473 attorney for an elector living in the facility ~~of any~~
 1474 ~~administrator of such a facility~~. Such request for supervised
 1475 voting in the facility shall be made by submitting a written

1476 request to the supervisor of elections no later than 28 days
1477 before ~~prior to~~ the election for which that request is
1478 submitted. The request shall specify the name and address of the
1479 facility and the name of the electors who wish to vote by mail
1480 in that election. If the request contains the names of fewer
1481 than five voters, the supervisor of elections is not required to
1482 provide supervised voting.

1483 (2) The supervisor of elections may, ~~in the absence of a~~
1484 ~~request from the administrator of a facility,~~ provide for
1485 supervised voting in the facility for those persons who have
1486 requested vote-by-mail ballots and voting assistance. The
1487 supervisor of elections shall notify the administrator of the
1488 facility that supervised voting will occur.

1489 (3) The supervisor of elections shall, in cooperation with
1490 the administrator of the facility, select a date and time when
1491 the supervised voting will occur.

1492 (4) The supervisor of elections shall designate supervised
1493 voting teams to provide the services prescribed by this section.
1494 Each supervised voting team shall include at least two persons.
1495 Each supervised voting team must include representatives of more
1496 than one political party; however, in any primary election to
1497 nominate party nominees in which only one party has candidates
1498 appearing on the ballot, all supervised voting team members may
1499 be of that party. No candidate may provide supervised voting
1500 services.

1501 (5) Ballots shall be placed in a sealed envelope for
 1502 transport to the facility to be delivered to respective absent
 1503 electors. Chain of custody forms shall include fields for the
 1504 name of the facility, the date, the time, the printed names and
 1505 signatures of each person on the supervised voting team assigned
 1506 to the facility, the number of ballots delivered to the
 1507 facility, the envelope seal number, and the printed names and
 1508 signatures of each person on the supervised voting team who
 1509 opens the envelope.

1510 (6) The seal on the envelope shall be maintained until the
 1511 supervised voting team is in the facility.

1512 (7)~~(5)~~ The supervised voting team shall deliver the
 1513 ballots to the respective absent electors, and each member of
 1514 the team shall jointly supervise the voting of the ballots. If
 1515 any elector requests assistance in voting, the oath prescribed
 1516 in s. 101.051 shall be completed and the elector may receive the
 1517 assistance of two members of the supervised voting team or some
 1518 other person of the elector's choice to assist the elector in
 1519 casting the elector's ballot.

1520 (8)~~(6)~~ Before providing assistance, the supervised voting
 1521 team shall disclose to the elector that the ballot may be
 1522 retained by the elector to vote at a later time and that the
 1523 elector has the right to seek assistance in voting from some
 1524 other person of the elector's choice without the presence of the
 1525 supervised voting team.

1526 (9) Before providing assistance to the elector, the
1527 supervised voting team must verify the identity of the elector
1528 by photo identification and attestation by a facility
1529 administrator.

1530 (10)~~(7)~~ If any elector declines to vote a ballot or is
1531 unable to vote a ballot, the supervised voting team shall mark
1532 the ballot "refused to vote" or "unable to vote."

1533 (11)~~(8)~~ After the ballots have been voted or marked in
1534 accordance with the provisions of this section, the supervised
1535 voting team shall place the completed and remaining blank
1536 ballots in a sealable envelope and deliver the ballots to the
1537 supervisor of elections, who shall retain them pursuant to s.
1538 101.67.

1539 (12) The chain of custody forms for transported and
1540 completed ballots by supervised voting team for supervised
1541 voting by absent electors in certain facilities must include
1542 fields for the printed names and signatures of two supervised
1543 voting team members, the date, the time, the number of absentee
1544 ballots transported to the facility in which the elector lives,
1545 the number of absentee ballots completed and returned to the
1546 supervisor, the number of absentee ballots retained by electors
1547 to be cast at a later date, the voter identifications of
1548 electors who retained ballots, and seal numbers.

1549 (13) The names of electors living in the facility who
1550 complete ballots, the names of electors living in a facility who

1551 refuse to vote, and the names of electors living in the facility
1552 who retain ballots to cast at a later date must be logged and
1553 reported to the supervisor of elections by the supervised voting
1554 team.

1555 (14) Cast ballots in sealed envelopes from supervised
1556 voting for absent electors residing in any assisted living
1557 facility or nursing home facility must be returned to the
1558 supervisor of elections for tabulation and retention pursuant to
1559 s. 101.67.

1560 (15) The chain of custody forms for transported and
1561 completed ballots by supervised voting team for supervised
1562 voting by absent electors in certain facilities shall include
1563 fields for the name of the facility, the printed names and
1564 signatures of two members of the vote counting center who accept
1565 custody of the cast ballots, the date, the time, the seal
1566 number, checkbox that the seal is intact, and the number of
1567 absentee ballots received by the vote counting center from the
1568 facility.

1569 (16) The county canvassing board shall validate chain of
1570 custody records for ballots received from supervised voting by
1571 absent electors in certain facilities as the ballots are
1572 returned.

1573 Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and
1574 subsections (2) and (4) of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, are
1575 amended to read:

1576 101.68 Canvassing of vote-by-mail ballot.-
 1577 (1)(a) The supervisor of the county in which ~~where~~ the
 1578 absent elector resides shall receive the voted ballot, verify
 1579 the certificate signature is a personal and manual signature
 1580 that was not created by a rubber stamp or an electronic machine,
 1581 verify that the voter certificate envelope and ballot material
 1582 are consistent with the quality and serial number sequence
 1583 issued, and at which time the supervisor shall compare the
 1584 signature of the elector on the voter's certificate with the
 1585 signature of the elector in the registration books or the
 1586 precinct register to determine whether the elector is duly
 1587 registered in the county and must record on the elector's
 1588 registration record that the elector has voted. The supervisor
 1589 shall also evaluate whether the photo identification provided is
 1590 consistent with any Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 1591 Vehicles photographs of the elector available. During the
 1592 signature comparison process, the supervisor may not use any
 1593 knowledge of the political affiliation of the elector whose
 1594 signature is subject to verification.
 1595 (2)(a) The county canvassing board may begin the
 1596 canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots upon the completion of the
 1597 public testing of automatic tabulating equipment pursuant to s.
 1598 101.5612(2), but must complete canvassing of all ballots
 1599 received at the end of election day ~~begin such canvassing~~ by no
 1600 later than the end of the following day ~~noon on the day~~

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1601 ~~following the election.~~ However, notwithstanding any such
1602 authorization to begin canvassing or otherwise processing vote-
1603 by-mail ballots early, no result shall be released to the state
1604 or to the public until after the closing of the polls in that
1605 county on election day. Any supervisor, deputy supervisor,
1606 canvassing board member, election board member, or election
1607 employee who releases the results of a canvassing or processing
1608 of vote-by-mail ballots before ~~prior to~~ the closing of the polls
1609 in that county on election day commits a felony of the third
1610 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.
1611 775.084.

1612 (b) To ensure that all vote-by-mail ballots to be counted
1613 by the canvassing board are accounted for, the canvassing board
1614 shall compare the number of ballots in its possession with the
1615 number of requests for ballots received to be counted according
1616 to the ballot chain of custody records and ballot reconciliation
1617 report, the supervisor's ballot accounting report, and the
1618 supervisor's file or list.

1619 (c)1. The canvassing board must, if the supervisor has not
1620 already done so, compare the signature of the elector on the
1621 voter's certificate or on the vote-by-mail ballot cure affidavit
1622 as provided in subsection (4) with the signature of the elector
1623 in the registration books or the precinct register to see that
1624 the elector is duly registered in the county and to determine
1625 the legality of that vote-by-mail ballot. A vote-by-mail ballot

1626 | may only be counted if:

1627 | a. The signature on the voter's certificate or the cure
 1628 | affidavit matches the elector's signature in the registration
 1629 | books or precinct register; however, in the case of a cure
 1630 | affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subsection
 1631 | (4) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

1632 | b. The cure affidavit contains a signature that does not
 1633 | match the elector's signature in the registration books or
 1634 | precinct register, but the elector has submitted a current and
 1635 | valid Tier 1 identification pursuant to subsection (4) which
 1636 | confirms the identity of the elector. Tier 1 and Tier 2
 1637 | identification is considered ballot material for purposes of s.
 1638 | 101.572 and must be presented to any candidates, political party
 1639 | officials, political committee officials, and political action
 1640 | committee officials, or authorized designees thereof, conducting
 1641 | a cure affidavit review.

1642 |
 1643 | For purposes of this subparagraph, any canvassing board finding
 1644 | that an elector's signatures do not match must be by majority
 1645 | vote and beyond a reasonable doubt.

1646 | 2. The ballot of an elector who casts a vote-by-mail
 1647 | ballot shall be counted even if the elector dies on or before
 1648 | election day, as long as, before the death of the voter, the
 1649 | ballot was postmarked by the United States Postal Service, date-
 1650 | stamped with a verifiable tracking number by a common carrier,

1651 or already in the possession of the supervisor.

1652 3. A vote-by-mail ballot is not considered illegal if the
1653 signature of the elector does not cross the seal of the mailing
1654 envelope. However, an envelope that appears to have been opened
1655 and resealed or that displays an unauthorized serial number
1656 instead of an authorized serial number is considered illegal.

1657 4. If any elector or candidate present believes that a
1658 vote-by-mail ballot is illegal due to a defect apparent on the
1659 voter's certificate or the cure affidavit, he or she may, at any
1660 time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file with
1661 the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of that
1662 ballot, specifying the precinct, the voter's certificate or the
1663 cure affidavit, and the reason he or she believes the ballot to
1664 be illegal. A challenge based upon a defect in the voter's
1665 certificate or cure affidavit may not be accepted after the
1666 ballot has been removed from the mailing envelope. A log shall
1667 be kept of all challenges, the voter identification, the
1668 resolution, and the signatures compared. The log, the cure
1669 affidavit with accompanying Tier 1 or Tier 2 identification, if
1670 applicable, the envelope, and the ballot, if rejected, therein
1671 must be preserved in the manner that official ballots are
1672 preserved as election materials. The log and decisions must be
1673 reviewed as part of a postelection process audit.

1674 5. If the canvassing board determines that a ballot is
1675 illegal, a member of the board must, without opening the

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1676 envelope, mark across the face of the envelope: "rejected as
1677 illegal." The cure affidavit with accompanying Tier 1 or Tier 2
1678 identification, if applicable, the envelope, and the ballot
1679 therein shall be preserved in the manner that official ballots
1680 are preserved as election materials.

1681 (d) The canvassing board shall record the ballot upon the
1682 proper record, unless the ballot has been previously recorded by
1683 the supervisor. The mailing envelopes shall be opened and the
1684 voter certificate ~~secrecy~~ envelopes shall be mixed so as to make
1685 it impossible to determine which voter certificate ~~secrecy~~
1686 envelope came out of which signed mailing envelope; however, in
1687 any county in which an electronic or electromechanical voting
1688 system is used, the ballots may be sorted by ballot styles and
1689 the mailing envelopes may be opened and the voter certificate
1690 ~~secrecy~~ envelopes mixed separately for each ballot style. The
1691 votes on vote-by-mail ballots shall be included in the total
1692 vote of the county.

1693 (4) (a) As soon as practicable, the supervisor shall, on
1694 behalf of the county canvassing board, attempt to notify an
1695 elector who has returned a vote-by-mail ballot that does not
1696 include the elector's signature or contains a signature that
1697 does not match the elector's signature in the registration books
1698 or precinct register by:

1699 1. Notifying the elector of the signature deficiency by e-
1700 mail with a direct link to the supervisor's website ~~and~~

1701 directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions ~~on~~
1702 ~~the supervisor's website;~~

1703 2. Notifying the elector of the signature deficiency by
1704 text message with a direct link to the supervisor's website ~~and~~
1705 directing the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions ~~on~~
1706 ~~the supervisor's website;~~ or

1707 3. Notifying the elector of the signature deficiency by
1708 telephone and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and
1709 instructions on the supervisor's website.

1710
1711 In addition to the notification required under subparagraph 1.,
1712 subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the supervisor must notify
1713 the elector of the signature deficiency by first-class mail and
1714 direct the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the
1715 supervisor's website. Beginning the day before the election, the
1716 supervisor is not required to provide notice of the signature
1717 deficiency by first-class mail, but shall continue to provide
1718 notice as required under subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or
1719 subparagraph 3.

1720 (b) The supervisor shall allow such an elector to complete
1721 and submit an affidavit in order to cure the vote-by-mail ballot
1722 until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after the election.

1723 (c) The elector must complete a cure affidavit in
1724 substantially the following form:

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VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT CURE AFFIDAVIT

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

- ...(Date)...
- ...(Voter's Printed Name)...
- ...(Voter's Signature)...
- ...(Voter's E-mail Address) [Optional]...
- ...(Voter's Home Telephone Number) [Optional]...
- ...(Voter's Cellular Telephone Number) [Optional]...
- ~~...(Address)...~~

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

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE

1751 | COMPLETING THE AFFIDAVIT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE
 1752 | INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1753 | 1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail
 1754 | ballot will be counted, your affidavit should be
 1755 | completed and returned as soon as possible so that it
 1756 | can reach the supervisor of elections of the county in
 1757 | which your precinct is located no later than 5 p.m. on
 1758 | the 2nd day after the election.

1759 | 2. You must sign your name on the line above
 1760 | (Voter's Signature).

1761 | 3. You must make a copy of one of the following
 1762 | forms of identification:

1763 | a. Tier 1 identification.—Current and valid
 1764 | identification that includes your name and photograph:
 1765 | Florida driver license; Florida identification card
 1766 | issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 1767 | Vehicles; United States passport; debit or credit
 1768 | card; military identification; student identification;
 1769 | ~~retirement center identification; neighborhood~~
 1770 | ~~association identification;~~ public assistance
 1771 | identification; veteran health identification card
 1772 | issued by the United States Department of Veterans
 1773 | Affairs; a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon
 1774 | or firearm; or an employee identification card issued
 1775 | by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the

1776 Federal Government, the state, a county, or a
 1777 municipality; or
 1778 b. Tier 2 identification.—ONLY IF YOU DO NOT
 1779 HAVE A TIER 1 FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, identification
 1780 that shows your name and current residence address:
 1781 current utility bill, bank statement, government
 1782 check, paycheck, or government document (excluding
 1783 voter information card).
 1784 4. Place the envelope bearing the affidavit into
 1785 a mailing envelope addressed to the supervisor. Insert
 1786 a copy of your identification in the mailing envelope.
 1787 Mail (if time permits), deliver, or have delivered the
 1788 completed affidavit along with the copy of your
 1789 identification to your county supervisor of elections.
 1790 Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed and that
 1791 the supervisor's address is correct. Remember, your
 1792 information MUST reach your county supervisor of
 1793 elections no later than 5 p.m. on the 2nd day after
 1794 the election, or your ballot will not count.
 1795 5. Alternatively, you may fax or e-mail your
 1796 completed affidavit and a copy of your identification
 1797 to the supervisor of elections. If e-mailing, please
 1798 provide these documents as attachments.
 1799
 1800 (e) The department and each supervisor shall include the

1801 affidavit and instructions on their respective websites. The
 1802 supervisor must include his or her office's mailing address, e-
 1803 mail address, and fax number on the page containing the
 1804 affidavit instructions, and the department's instruction page
 1805 must include the office mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and
 1806 fax numbers of all supervisors of elections or provide a
 1807 conspicuous link to such addresses.

1808 (f) The supervisor shall attach each affidavit and Tier 1
 1809 or Tier 2 identification document received to the appropriate
 1810 voter certificate ~~vote-by-mail ballot mailing~~ envelope.

1811 (g) A designee for a candidate, a political committee, a
 1812 political action committee, or political party may inspect all
 1813 ballot materials in accordance with s. 101.572, including Tier 1
 1814 and Tier 2 forms of identification necessary to accept or reject
 1815 a ballot certificate signature match.

1816 (h) A voter signature mismatch on a voter certificate
 1817 envelope that is rejected by the county canvassing board must be
 1818 cured by the elector before his or her signature may be accepted
 1819 and vote counted. The elector shall complete a cure affidavit
 1820 and return to the county canvassing board the affidavit and Tier
 1821 1 or Tier 2 forms of identification.

1822 (i) The voter certificate envelope, the cure affidavit,
 1823 and the Tier 1 or Tier 2 forms of identification are considered
 1824 ballot materials under s. 101.572. These ballot materials
 1825 provide supporting evidence to accept or reject a signature on a

1826 certificate and shall be reviewed by the canvassing board and
1827 made available to a designee for a candidate, a political
1828 committee, a political action committee, or a political party.

1829 (j) The supervisor shall provide to the designee for a
1830 candidate, political committee, political action committee, or
1831 political party access to any materials considered ballot
1832 materials under s. 101.572 which are necessary to complete the
1833 task of cure affidavit review. A time shall be arranged each day
1834 and made open to the public for a designee for a candidate,
1835 political committee, political action committee, or political
1836 party to complete a cure affidavit review of unique returned
1837 cure affidavits that have been returned since the previous day
1838 made open to the public. As long as the vote counting center is
1839 open to the public, the supervisor may not limit the time
1840 necessary for a designee for a candidate, a political committee,
1841 a political action committee, or a political party to complete a
1842 cure affidavit review of ballot materials.

1843 (k)~~(g)~~ If a vote-by-mail ballot is validated following the
1844 submission of a cure affidavit, the supervisor shall make a copy
1845 of the affidavit, affix it to a voter registration application,
1846 and immediately process it as a valid request for a signature
1847 update pursuant to s. 98.077.

1848 (l) A log shall be kept of cure challenges levied by
1849 public inspectors, including the voter name, the voter
1850 identification, the voter precinct, the reason for the cure

1851 affidavit, the reason the voter certificate envelope was
 1852 initially rejected, the reason for any challenges made to the
 1853 cure affidavit signature, Tier 1 and Tier 2 identification, and
 1854 the final disposition of the cure affidavit.

1855 1. The log, the cure affidavit, if applicable, the
 1856 envelope, and the ballot, if rejected, shall be preserved in the
 1857 manner that official ballots are preserved. The log and
 1858 decisions must be reviewed as part of a postelection process
 1859 audit and cure reports shall be made available to the public by
 1860 precinct.

1861 2. If a designee protests a cure affidavit and the protest
 1862 is subsequently rejected by the county canvassing board, the
 1863 ballot shall be counted as a cast vote and entered into the
 1864 final vote count. The county canvassing board shall record in
 1865 the log the reason for the protest, the reason for the protest
 1866 rejection, the voter identification, the voter precinct, the
 1867 reason the cure affidavit was required, and the voter
 1868 certificate envelope that was originally rejected.

1869 3. Daily county canvassing board minutes shall contain
 1870 board decisions relating to cure affidavits, including the voter
 1871 identification and precinct discussed.

1872 (m)-(h) After all election results on the ballot have been
 1873 certified, the supervisor shall, on behalf of the county
 1874 canvassing board, notify each elector whose ballot has been
 1875 rejected as illegal and provide the specific reason the ballot

1876 | was rejected. The supervisor shall research the elector whose
1877 | ballot was rejected as illegal using all available resources to
1878 | determine if the elector is still eligible to vote. If the
1879 | elector is determined to be eligible to vote ~~In addition~~, unless
1880 | processed as a signature update pursuant to paragraph (k) ~~(g)~~,
1881 | the supervisor shall mail a voter registration application to
1882 | the elector to be completed indicating the elector's current
1883 | signature if the signature on the voter's certificate or cure
1884 | affidavit did not match the elector's signature in the
1885 | registration books or precinct register.

1886 | (n) Any information not confidential or exempt from s.
1887 | 119.07(1) must be made available to candidate, political party,
1888 | or political committee designees, including information on
1889 | electors who are notified of a signature mismatch and provided
1890 | instructions to complete a cure affidavit by the supervisor.

1891 | Section 16. Section 101.69, Florida Statutes, is amended
1892 | to read:

1893 | 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.—

1894 | (1) The provisions of this code shall not be construed to
1895 | prohibit any elector from voting in person at the elector's
1896 | precinct on the day of an election or at an early voting site,
1897 | notwithstanding that the elector has requested a vote-by-mail
1898 | ballot for that election. An elector who has returned a voted
1899 | vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor, however, is deemed to
1900 | have cast his or her ballot and is not entitled to vote another

1901 ballot or to have a provisional ballot counted by the county
 1902 canvassing board. An elector who has received a vote-by-mail
 1903 ballot and has not returned the voted ballot to the supervisor,
 1904 but desires to vote in person, shall return the ballot, whether
 1905 voted or not, to the election board in the elector's precinct or
 1906 to an early voting site. The returned ballot voter certificate
 1907 envelope containing an uncast ballot shall be marked "canceled"
 1908 with a permanent marker. In the presence of the elector and a
 1909 second poll worker, the board shall open the voter certificate
 1910 envelope and mark "canceled" with a permanent marker across the
 1911 ballot and place the ballot ~~shall be marked "canceled" by the~~
 1912 ~~board and placed~~ with other canceled ballots. However, if the
 1913 elector does not return the ballot and the election official:
 1914 (a) Confirms that the supervisor has received the
 1915 elector's vote-by-mail ballot, the elector shall not be allowed
 1916 to vote in person. If the elector maintains that he or she has
 1917 not returned the vote-by-mail ballot or remains eligible to
 1918 vote, the elector shall be provided a provisional ballot as
 1919 provided in s. 101.048.
 1920 (b) Confirms that the supervisor has not received the
 1921 elector's vote-by-mail ballot, the elector shall be allowed to
 1922 vote in person as provided in this code. The elector's vote-by-
 1923 mail ballot, if subsequently received, shall not be counted and
 1924 shall remain in the mailing envelope, and the envelope shall be
 1925 marked "Rejected as Illegal 2nd Ballot." If it is determined

1926 | that the signature on the voter certificate does not match the
 1927 | voter's signature, the vote-by-mail ballot and voter certificate
 1928 | envelope shall be submitted to the Office of Election Crimes and
 1929 | Security for investigation.

1930 | (c) Cannot determine whether the supervisor has received
 1931 | the elector's vote-by-mail ballot, the elector may vote a
 1932 | provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.

1933 | (2)(a) The supervisor shall allow an elector who has
 1934 | received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted
 1935 | vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail
 1936 | envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot
 1937 | intake station. Secure ballot intake stations shall be placed at
 1938 | the main office of the supervisor, at each permanent branch
 1939 | office of the supervisor which meets the criteria set forth in
 1940 | s. 101.657(1)(a) for branch offices used for early voting and
 1941 | which is open for at least the minimum number of hours
 1942 | prescribed by s. 98.015(4), and inside ~~at~~ each early voting
 1943 | site. ~~Secure ballot intake stations may also be placed at any~~
 1944 | ~~other site that would otherwise qualify as an early voting site~~
 1945 | ~~under s. 101.657(1). Secure ballot intake stations must be~~
 1946 | ~~geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county~~
 1947 | ~~with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is~~
 1948 | ~~practicable. Except for secure ballot intake stations at an~~
 1949 | ~~office of the supervisor,~~ A secure ballot intake station may
 1950 | only be used during the county's early voting hours of operation

1951 if located inside an early voting site or inside an office of
1952 the supervisor and must be monitored in person by an employee of
1953 the supervisor's office. A secure ballot intake station at an
1954 office of the supervisor must be continuously monitored in
1955 person by an employee of the supervisor's office when the secure
1956 ballot intake station is accessible for deposit of ballots.

1957 (b) A supervisor shall designate each secure ballot intake
1958 station location at least 30 days before an election. The
1959 supervisor shall provide the address of each secure ballot
1960 intake station location to the division at least 30 days before
1961 an election. After a secure ballot intake station location has
1962 been designated, it may not be moved or changed except as
1963 approved by the division to correct a violation of this
1964 subsection.

1965 (c)1. On each day of early voting, all secure ballot
1966 intake stations must be inspected to verify no ballots are
1967 present at the start of early voting hours and must be emptied
1968 at the end of early voting hours. ~~and~~ All ballots retrieved from
1969 the secure ballot intake stations must be returned to the
1970 supervisor's office using the chain of custody standards
1971 required under s. 101.015.

1972 2. For secure ballot intake stations located at an office
1973 of the supervisor, all ballots must be retrieved before the
1974 secure ballot intake station is no longer monitored by an
1975 employee of the supervisor.

1976 3. Employees of the supervisor must comply with procedures
 1977 for the chain of custody of ballots as required by s.
 1978 101.015(4).

1979 (3) If any secure ballot intake station is left accessible
 1980 for ballot receipt other than as authorized by this section or a
 1981 secure intake station is deployed which does not meet department
 1982 standards, the supervisor is subject to a civil penalty of
 1983 \$25,000. The division is authorized to enforce this provision.

1984 Section 17. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 101.6921,
 1985 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1986 101.6921 Delivery of special vote-by-mail ballot to
 1987 certain first-time voters.—

1988 (2) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
 1989 ballot three envelopes: ~~a secrecy envelope, into which the~~
 1990 ~~absent elector will enclose his or her marked ballot;~~ an
 1991 envelope containing the Voter's Certificate; an identification
 1992 envelope, ~~into which the absent elector shall place the secrecy~~
 1993 ~~envelope~~; and a mailing envelope, which shall be addressed to
 1994 the supervisor and into which the absent elector will place the
 1995 envelope containing the Voter's Certificate and the
 1996 identification envelope containing a copy of the required
 1997 identification.

1998 (3) The Voter's Certificate shall be in substantially the
 1999 following form:

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

VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

I,, do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a
qualified and registered voter of County,
Florida, and that I have not and will not vote more
than one ballot in this election. I understand that if
I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in connection
with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more
than once in an election, I can be convicted of a
felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000
and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years. I also understand
that failure to sign this certificate will invalidate
my ballot. I understand that unless I meet one of the
exemptions below, I must provide a copy of a current
and valid identification as provided in the
instruction sheet to the supervisor of elections in
order for my ballot to count.

I further certify that I am exempt from the
requirements to furnish a copy of a current and valid
identification with my ballot because of one or more
of the following (check all that apply):

- ~~I am 65 years of age or older.~~
- I have a permanent or temporary physical
disability and have included a copy of a doctor's note

2026 | or social security disability document.

2027 | I am a member of a uniformed service on active
 2028 | duty who, by reason of such active duty, will be
 2029 | absent from the county on election day and have
 2030 | included a copy of my current military identification.

2031 | I am a member of the Merchant Marine who, by
 2032 | reason of service in the Merchant Marine, will be
 2033 | absent from the county on election day and have
 2034 | included a copy of my current Merchant Marine
 2035 | identification.

2036 | I am the spouse or dependent of a member of the
 2037 | uniformed service or Merchant Marine who, by reason of
 2038 | the active duty or service of the member, will be
 2039 | absent from the county on election day and have
 2040 | included a copy of my uniformed services dependent
 2041 | identification.

2042 | I am currently residing outside the United
 2043 | States and have included a copy of one of the
 2044 | following that show my name and my former Florida
 2045 | address and the address at which I reside outside the
 2046 | United States:

- 2047 | 1. Utility bill.
- 2048 | 2. Bank statement.
- 2049 | 3. Government issued check.
- 2050 | 4 Paycheck.

2051 5. Other government document, excluding a voter
 2052 identification card.
 2053 ... (Date) ...
 2054 ... (Voter's Printed Name) ...
 2055 ... Voter's Signature ...
 2056 ... (Voter's E-mail Address) [Optional] ...
 2057 ... (Voter's Home Telephone Number) [Optional] ...
 2058 ... (Voter's Cellular Telephone Number) [Optional] ...

2059
 2060 Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 101.6923, Florida
 2061 Statutes, is amended to read:

2062 101.6923 Special vote-by-mail ballot instructions for
 2063 certain first-time voters.-

2064 (2) A voter covered by this section must be provided with
 2065 printed instructions with his or her vote-by-mail ballot in
 2066 substantially the following form:

2067
 2068 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE MARKING YOUR
 2069 BALLOT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE
 2070 YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

2071 1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail
 2072 ballot will be counted, it should be completed and
 2073 returned as soon as possible so that it can reach the
 2074 supervisor of elections of the county in which your
 2075 precinct is located no later than 7 p.m. on the date

2076 of the election. However, if you are an overseas voter
2077 casting a ballot in a presidential preference primary
2078 or general election, your vote-by-mail ballot must be
2079 postmarked or dated no later than the date of the
2080 election and received by the supervisor of elections
2081 of the county in which you are registered to vote no
2082 later than 10 days after the date of the election.
2083 Note that the later you return your ballot, the less
2084 time you will have to cure signature deficiencies,
2085 which is authorized until 5 p.m. local time on the 2nd
2086 day after the election.

2087 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on
2088 the ballot. You must mark your own ballot unless you
2089 are unable to do so because of blindness, disability,
2090 or inability to read or write.

2091 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue
2092 choices for a race as indicated on the ballot. If you
2093 are allowed to "Vote for One" candidate and you vote
2094 for more than one, your vote in that race will not be
2095 counted.

2096 4. Place your marked ballot ~~in the enclosed~~
2097 ~~secrecy envelope and seal the envelope.~~

2098 ~~5. Insert the secrecy envelope~~ into the enclosed
2099 envelope bearing the Voter's Certificate. Seal the
2100 envelope and completely fill out the Voter's

2101 Certificate on the back of the envelope.

2102 a. You must sign your name on the line above

2103 (Voter's Signature).

2104 b. If you are an overseas voter, you must

2105 include the date you signed the Voter's Certificate on

2106 the line above (Date) or your ballot may not be

2107 counted.

2108 c. A vote-by-mail ballot will be considered

2109 illegal and will not be counted if the signature on

2110 the Voter's Certificate does not match the signature

2111 on record. The signature on file at the start of the

2112 canvass of the vote-by-mail ballots is the signature

2113 that will be used to verify your signature on the

2114 Voter's Certificate. If you need to update your

2115 signature for this election, send your signature

2116 update on a voter registration application to your

2117 supervisor of elections so that it is received before

2118 your vote-by-mail ballot is received.

2119 5.a. If you have registered to vote without a

2120 driver license or Florida identification card and have

2121 not previously provided the one of the following

2122 identification documents to an election official ~~6.~~

2123 ~~Unless you meet one of the exemptions in Item 7., you~~

2124 must make a copy of one of the following forms of

2125 identification:

2126 (I) A United States passport; or
 2127 (II) (A) A United States birth certificate,
 2128 United States naturalization papers, a consular report
 2129 of birth abroad provided by the United States
 2130 Department of State, or a social security card; and
 2131 (B) An acceptable, current photo identification
 2132 which must include your name and photograph.
 2133 Acceptable photo identification includes a ~~a~~
 2134 ~~identification which must include your name and~~
 2135 ~~photograph; United States passport; debit or credit~~
 2136 ~~card; military identification; student identification;~~
 2137 ~~retirement center identification; neighborhood~~
 2138 ~~association identification; public assistance~~
 2139 ~~identification; a veteran health identification card~~
 2140 ~~issued by the United States Department of Veterans~~
 2141 ~~Affairs; a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon~~
 2142 ~~or firearm; or an employee identification card issued~~
 2143 ~~by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the~~
 2144 ~~Federal Government, the state, a county, or a~~
 2145 ~~municipality. ~~;~~ ~~or~~~~
 2146 b. If you have registered to vote without a
 2147 driver license or Florida identification card you must
 2148 also make a copy of one of the following documents
 2149 dated within the last 2 months that contains the name
 2150 and residence address listed on your voter

2151 registration application. Acceptable identification
2152 that ~~which~~ shows your name and ~~current~~ residence
2153 address includes a: ~~current~~ utility bill, bank
2154 statement, government check, paycheck, or government
2155 document (excluding voter information card).

2156 c. If you have registered to vote without a
2157 driver license or Florida identification card and meet
2158 the requirements of Item 6., you may provide the
2159 following as a proof of prior Florida residence:

2160 (I) Documents listed in Item 5.b. that are not
2161 current plus a current equivalent document listing
2162 your non-United States residence.

2163 (II) A consular report of birth abroad provided
2164 by the United States Department of State and proof
2165 that your parents previously resided in the State of
2166 Florida.

2167 d. Documents provided under Item 5. may be
2168 submitted using the same methods allowed under s.
2169 101.68.

2170 6.7. The identification requirements of Item
2171 5.6. do not apply if you meet one of the following
2172 requirements:

2173 a. You are 65 years of age or older as
2174 documented by a copy of a birth certificate proving
2175 your age.

2176 b. You have a temporary or permanent physical
2177 disability as documented by a copy of a doctor's
2178 affidavit stating your disability status or social
2179 security disability document provided to a voter
2180 registration official.

2181 c. You are a member of a uniformed service on
2182 active duty as documented by a current military
2183 identification provided to a voter registration
2184 official who, by reason of such active duty, will be
2185 absent from the county on election day.

2186 d. You are a member of the Merchant Marine as
2187 documented by a current Merchant Marine identification
2188 who, by reason of service in the Merchant Marine, will
2189 be absent from the county on election day.

2190 e. You are the spouse or dependent of a member
2191 referred to in paragraph c. or paragraph d. as
2192 documented by a uniformed services dependent
2193 identification who, by reason of the active duty or
2194 service of the member, will be absent from the county
2195 on election day.

2196 f. You are currently residing outside the United
2197 States and provide one of the following:

2198 (I) Documents listed in Item 5.b. that are not
2199 current and a current equivalent document listing your
2200 non-United States residence.

2201 (II) A consular report of birth abroad provided
 2202 by the United States Department of State and proof
 2203 that parents previously resided in the state of
 2204 Florida.

2205
 2206 Documents provided under Item 6. may be provided to
 2207 election officials using mail, e-mail, or fax.

2208 ~~7.8. Place the envelope bearing the Voter's~~
 2209 ~~Certificate into the mailing envelope addressed to the~~
 2210 ~~supervisor.~~ Insert a copy of your identification in
 2211 the identification ~~mailing~~ envelope. DO NOT PUT YOUR
 2212 IDENTIFICATION INSIDE THE ~~SECRECY ENVELOPE WITH THE~~
 2213 ~~BALLOT OR INSIDE THE~~ ENVELOPE WHICH BEARS THE VOTER'S
 2214 CERTIFICATE OR YOUR BALLOT WILL NOT COUNT.

2215 8. Place both the envelope bearing the Voter's
 2216 Certificate and the identification envelope into the
 2217 mailing envelope addressed to the supervisor.

2218 9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the
 2219 completed mailing envelope. Be sure there is
 2220 sufficient postage if mailed.

2221 10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida
 2222 law to accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in
 2223 exchange for your vote for a candidate. It is also a
 2224 felony under Florida law to vote in an election using
 2225 a false identity or false address, or under any other

2226 | circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

2227 |

2228 | Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection
2229 | (2) of section 102.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2230 | 102.012 Inspectors, ~~and~~ clerks, and absentee vote
2231 | processing workers to conduct elections.-

2232 | (1)(a) The supervisor of elections of each county, at
2233 | least 20 days before ~~prior to~~ the holding of any election, shall
2234 | appoint an election board comprised of poll workers who serve as
2235 | clerks or inspectors for each precinct in the county and shall
2236 | recruit absentee vote processing workers. The clerk shall be in
2237 | charge of, and responsible for, seeing that the election board
2238 | carries out its duties and responsibilities. Each inspector,
2239 | absentee vote processing worker, and ~~each~~ clerk shall take and
2240 | subscribe to an oath or affirmation, which shall be written or
2241 | printed, to the effect that he or she will perform the duties of
2242 | inspector, absentee vote processing worker, or clerk of
2243 | election, respectively, according to law and will endeavor to
2244 | prevent all fraud, deceit, or abuse in conducting the election.
2245 | The oath may be taken before an officer authorized to administer
2246 | oaths or before any of the persons who are to act as inspectors,
2247 | one of them to swear the others, and one of the others sworn
2248 | thus, in turn, to administer the oath to the one who has not
2249 | been sworn. The oaths shall be returned with the poll list and
2250 | the returns of the election to the supervisor. In all questions

2251 that may arise before the members of an election board, the
 2252 decision of a majority of them shall decide the question. The
 2253 supervisor of elections of each county shall be responsible for
 2254 the attendance and diligent performance of his or her duties by
 2255 each clerk, absentee vote processing worker, and inspector.

2256 (2) Each member of the election board and each absentee
 2257 vote processing worker must ~~shall~~ be able to read and write the
 2258 English language and ~~shall~~ be a registered qualified elector of
 2259 the county in which the member is appointed or a person who has
 2260 preregistered to vote, pursuant to s. 97.041(1)(b), in the
 2261 county in which the member is appointed. An ~~No~~ election board or
 2262 work area of an absentee vote counting location may not ~~shall~~ be
 2263 composed solely of members of one political party, except that
 2264 ~~however~~, in any primary in which only one party has candidates
 2265 appearing on the ballot, all clerks and inspectors may be of
 2266 that party. Any person whose name appears as an opposed
 2267 candidate for any office shall not be eligible to serve on an
 2268 election board.

2269 Section 20. Section 102.014, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2270 to read:

2271 102.014 Poll worker recruitment and training.—

2272 (1) The supervisor of elections shall conduct training for
 2273 inspectors, clerks, absentee vote processing workers, and deputy
 2274 sheriffs before ~~prior to~~ each primary, general, and special
 2275 election for the purpose of instructing such persons in their

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2276 duties and responsibilities as election officials. The Division
2277 of Elections shall develop a statewide uniform training
2278 curriculum for poll workers, and each supervisor shall use such
2279 curriculum in training poll workers. The Department of State
2280 shall develop a statewide uniform training curriculum for
2281 absentee vote processing workers, and each supervisor shall use
2282 such curriculum in training absentee vote processing workers. A
2283 certificate may be issued by the supervisor of elections to each
2284 person completing such training. No person shall serve as an
2285 inspector, clerk, absentee vote processing worker, or deputy
2286 sheriff for an election unless such person has completed the
2287 training as required. A clerk may not work at the polls unless
2288 he or she demonstrates a working knowledge of the laws and
2289 procedures relating to voter registration, voting system
2290 operation, balloting and polling place procedures, and problem-
2291 solving and conflict-resolution skills. An absentee vote
2292 processing worker may not work in the vote processing center
2293 unless he or she demonstrates a working knowledge of the laws
2294 and procedures relating to chain of custody, the work areas to
2295 which he or she may be assigned, physical security requirements,
2296 and problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills.

2297 (2) A person who has attended previous training conducted
2298 within 2 years before the election may be appointed by the
2299 supervisor to fill a vacancy on an election board or at an
2300 absentee vote processing location. If no person with prior

2301 training is available to fill such vacancy, the supervisor of
 2302 elections may fill such vacancy in accordance with the
 2303 provisions of subsection (3) from among persons who have not
 2304 received the training required by this section.

2305 (3) In the case of absence or refusal to act on the part
 2306 of any absentee vote processing worker, inspector, or clerk, the
 2307 supervisor shall appoint a replacement who meets the
 2308 qualifications prescribed in s. 102.012(2). The absentee vote
 2309 processing worker, inspector, or clerk so appointed shall be a
 2310 member of the same political party as the absentee vote
 2311 processing worker, clerk, or inspector whom he or she replaces.

2312 (4) Each supervisor of elections shall be responsible for
 2313 training absentee vote processing workers, inspectors, and
 2314 clerks, subject to the following minimum requirements:

2315 (a) A ~~No~~ clerk may not ~~shall be entitled to~~ work at the
 2316 polls unless he or she has had a minimum of 3 hours of training
 2317 before ~~prior to~~ each election.

2318 (b) An ~~No~~ inspector may not ~~shall~~ work at the polls unless
 2319 he or she has had a minimum of 2 hours of training before ~~prior~~
 2320 ~~to~~ each election.

2321 (c) An absentee vote processing worker may not work in a
 2322 work area unless he or she has had a minimum of 2 hours of
 2323 training before each election, including training for the work
 2324 area to which he or she is assigned.

2325 (5) The Department of State shall create a uniform polling

2326 | place procedures manual and an absentee vote processing
 2327 | procedures manual and adopt the manuals ~~manual~~ by rule. Each
 2328 | supervisor of elections shall ensure that the appropriate manual
 2329 | is available in hard copy or electronic form in every polling
 2330 | place and absentee vote processing location. The manuals ~~manual~~
 2331 | shall guide absentee vote processing workers, inspectors,
 2332 | clerks, and deputy sheriffs in the proper implementation of
 2333 | election procedures and laws. The manuals ~~manual~~ shall be
 2334 | indexed by subject, and written in plain, clear, unambiguous
 2335 | language. The manual shall provide specific examples of common
 2336 | problems encountered at the polls and detail specific procedures
 2337 | for resolving those problems.

2338 | (a) The polling place procedures manual shall include,
 2339 | without limitation:

2340 | 1.(a) Regulations governing solicitation by individuals
 2341 | and groups at the polling place.†

2342 | 2.(b) Procedures to be followed with respect to voters
 2343 | whose names are not on the precinct register.†

2344 | 3.(c) Proper operation of the voting system.†

2345 | 4.(d) Ballot handling procedures.†

2346 | 5.(e) Procedures governing spoiled ballots;

2347 | 6.(f) Procedures to be followed after the polls close.†

2348 | 7.(g) Rights of voters at the polls.†

2349 | 8.(h) Procedures for handling emergency situations.†

2350 | 9.(i) Procedures for dealing with irate voters.†

- 2351 10.~~(j)~~ The handling and processing of provisional
 2352 ballots.~~;~~ and
 2353 11.~~(k)~~ Security procedures.
 2354 12. Chain of custody procedures.
 2355 13. Communications device policy.
 2356 14. Rights and responsibilities of poll watchers at the
 2357 polls.
 2358 (b) The absentee vote processing manual shall include, but
 2359 not be limited to:
 2360 1. Regulations governing use of cell phones and wireless
 2361 networking at the vote counting location.
 2362 2. Proper communication settings and operation of vote
 2363 counting location technologies.
 2364 3. Procedures for management and use of portable storage
 2365 media.
 2366 4. Procedures for chain of custody between work areas and
 2367 storage.
 2368 5. Procedures for curing of ballots.
 2369 6. Access to and control of ballots in storage or within
 2370 work areas during working and nonworking hours.
 2371 7. Rights and responsibilities of public watchers at the
 2372 absentee vote processing location.
 2373 8. Security procedures including building security,
 2374 physical port security, and system cybersecurity.
 2375 9. Beginning of shift procedures.

- 2376 | 10. End of shift procedures.
- 2377 | 11. Rights and responsibilities of public watchers at the
- 2378 | absentee vote processing location.
- 2379 | 12. Ballot accounting and reconciliation reports.

2380 |

2381 | The Department of State shall revise the manuals ~~manual~~ as

2382 | necessary to address new procedures in law or problems

2383 | encountered by voters and poll workers at the precincts and by

2384 | absentee vote processing workers at absentee vote counting

2385 | locations.

2386 | (6) Supervisors of elections shall work with the business

2387 | and local community to develop public-private programs to ensure

2388 | the recruitment of skilled absentee vote processing workers,

2389 | inspectors, and clerks.

2390 | (7) The Department of State shall develop a mandatory,

2391 | statewide, and uniform program for training poll workers on

2392 | issues of etiquette and sensitivity with respect to voters

2393 | having a disability. The program must be conducted locally by

2394 | each supervisor of elections, and each poll worker must complete

2395 | the program before working during the current election cycle.

2396 | The supervisor of elections shall contract with a recognized

2397 | disability-related organization, such as a center for

2398 | independent living, family network on disabilities, deaf service

2399 | bureau, or other such organization, to develop and assist with

2400 | training the trainers in the disability sensitivity programs.

2401 The program must include actual demonstrations of obstacles
 2402 confronted by disabled persons during the voting process,
 2403 including obtaining access to the polling place, traveling
 2404 through the polling area, and using the voting system.

2405 Section 21. Subsections (3) through (11) of section
 2406 102.141, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
 2407 through (13), respectively, subsection (1), paragraph (a) of
 2408 subsection (2), and present subsection (7) are amended, and new
 2409 subsections (3) and (4) are added to that section, to read:

2410 102.141 County canvassing board; duties.—

2411 (1) The county canvassing board shall be composed of the
 2412 supervisor of elections; a county court judge, who shall act as
 2413 chair; ~~and~~ the chair of the board of county commissioners; and
 2414 two elected municipal officials. The elected municipal officials
 2415 assigned to the canvassing board shall rotate amongst the
 2416 municipalities within the county so that the municipal elected
 2417 official is different every election cycle. The canvassing board
 2418 must have at least two members from each major political party.

2419 The names of the canvassing board members must be published on
 2420 the supervisor's website upon completion of the logic and
 2421 accuracy test. At least two alternate canvassing board members
 2422 must be appointed pursuant to paragraph (e). In the event any
 2423 member of the county canvassing board is unable to serve, is a
 2424 candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed, or
 2425 is an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any

2426 candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed,
2427 such member shall be replaced as follows:

2428 (a) If a county court judge is unable to serve or if all
2429 are disqualified, the chief judge of the judicial circuit in
2430 which the county is located must appoint as a substitute member
2431 a qualified elector of the county who is not a candidate with
2432 opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an
2433 active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate
2434 with opposition in the election being canvassed. In such event,
2435 the members of the county canvassing board shall meet and elect
2436 a chair.

2437 (b) If the supervisor of elections is unable to serve or
2438 is disqualified, the chair of the board of county commissioners
2439 must appoint as a substitute member a member of the board of
2440 county commissioners or a municipal official who is not a
2441 candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and
2442 who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of
2443 any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed.
2444 The supervisor, however, shall act in an advisory capacity to
2445 the canvassing board.

2446 (c) If the chair of the board of county commissioners is
2447 unable to serve or is disqualified, the board of county
2448 commissioners must appoint as a substitute member one of its
2449 members who is not a candidate with opposition in the election
2450 being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the

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2451 campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the
2452 election being canvassed.

2453 (d) If a substitute member or alternate member cannot be
2454 appointed as provided elsewhere in this subsection, or in the
2455 event of a vacancy in such office, the chief judge of the
2456 judicial circuit in which the county is located must appoint as
2457 a substitute member or alternate member a qualified elector of
2458 the county who is not a candidate with opposition in the
2459 election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in
2460 the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in
2461 the election being canvassed.

2462 (e)1. The chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the
2463 county is located shall appoint a county court judge as an
2464 alternate member of the county canvassing board or, if each
2465 county court judge is unable to serve or is disqualified, shall
2466 appoint an alternate member who is qualified to serve as a
2467 substitute member under paragraph (a). Any alternate may serve
2468 in any seat.

2469 2. The chair of the board of county commissioners shall
2470 appoint a member of the board of county commissioners as an
2471 alternate member of the county canvassing board or, if each
2472 member of the board of county commissioners is unable to serve
2473 or is disqualified, shall appoint an alternate member who is
2474 qualified to serve as a substitute member under paragraph (d).

2475 3. A quorum of at least three members of the county

2476 canvassing board is required for all signature and provisional
2477 ballot review proceedings. If quorum cannot be established ~~a~~
2478 ~~member of the county canvassing board is unable to participate~~
2479 ~~in a meeting of the board,~~ the chair of the county canvassing
2480 board or his or her designee must designate which alternate
2481 member will serve as a member of the board in the place of the
2482 member who is unable to participate at that meeting.

2483 4. If not serving as one of the three members of the
2484 county canvassing board, an alternate member may be present,
2485 observe, and communicate with the three members constituting the
2486 county canvassing board, but may not vote in the board's
2487 decisions or determinations.

2488 (2)(a) The county canvassing board shall meet in a
2489 building accessible to the public in the county where the
2490 election occurred at a time and place to be designated by the
2491 supervisor to publicly canvass the absent electors' ballots as
2492 provided for in s. 101.68 and provisional ballots as provided by
2493 ss. 101.048, 101.049, and 101.6925. During each meeting of the
2494 county canvassing board, each political party and each candidate
2495 may have one watcher able to view directly or on a display
2496 screen ballots being examined for signature matching and other
2497 processes. Each county canvassing board meeting must be
2498 monitored by real-time video available for public viewing and
2499 meeting minutes for each such meeting must be published on the
2500 supervisor's website. Provisional ballots cast pursuant to s.

2501 101.049 shall be canvassed in a manner that votes for candidates
 2502 and issues on those ballots can be segregated from other votes.
 2503 As soon as the absent electors' ballots and the provisional
 2504 ballots are canvassed, the board shall proceed to publicly
 2505 canvass the vote given each candidate, nominee, constitutional
 2506 amendment, or other measure submitted to the electorate of the
 2507 county, as shown by the returns then on file in the office of
 2508 the supervisor.

2509 (3) (a) Each day during an election, the county canvassing
 2510 board shall review all of the following reports:

2511 1. Exception reports on ballot chain of custody
 2512 documentation, including missing quantities, seals, and
 2513 excessive transport times.

2514 2. Daily precinct and vote-by-mail ballot reconciliation
 2515 reports.

2516 3. Daily manual cross-check reports in accordance with s.
 2517 101.015(7).

2518 4. Portable data storage device chain of custody reports.

2519 5. Physical building and ballot storage area exception
 2520 reports.

2521 (b) Upon completing the review required under paragraph
 2522 (a), the county canvassing board shall take corrective actions
 2523 as necessary and report to the department any issue that cannot
 2524 be resolved.

2525 (4) (a) Before certifying an election the county canvassing

2526 board shall review all of the following:

2527 1. Vote-by-mail reconciliation report outlined in s
2528 101.015(4)(c).

2529 2. The ballot, envelope, and seal accounting report
2530 required under s. 101.21(2).

2531 3. Ballot chain of custody reports from precincts,
2532 including reports on the transport of vote-by-mail ballots to
2533 permanent storage.

2534 (b) Any discrepancies identified in the review must be
2535 reported to the department. If a discrepancy involves a number
2536 of ballots that exceeds the margin of victory in any local race,
2537 the race may not be certified unless the discrepancy is
2538 resolved. If the discrepancy is not resolved, the race shall be
2539 deemed invalid and a special election must be held to fill the
2540 office in accordance with chapter 100. If the discrepancy is
2541 determined to be due to chain of custody mismanagement, the
2542 supervisor may be removed from office.

2543 (9)-(7) If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate
2544 for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a
2545 percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a
2546 candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not
2547 retained by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on
2548 the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the
2549 ballot was approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less
2550 of the votes cast on such measure, a manual recount using

2551 original paper ballots and voter certificate envelopes shall be
2552 ordered of the votes cast with respect to such office or
2553 measure. The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering
2554 recounts in federal, state, and multicounty races. The county
2555 canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying
2556 the election is responsible for ordering recounts in all other
2557 races. A recount need not be ordered with respect to the returns
2558 for any office, however, if the candidate or candidates defeated
2559 or eliminated from contention for such office by one-half of a
2560 percent or less of the votes cast for such office request in
2561 writing that a recount not be made.

2562 (a) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a
2563 recount shall oversee a manual recount using original hand-
2564 marked paper ballots and voter certificate envelopes and
2565 determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast.
2566 The recount must include undervotes, overvotes, and blank
2567 ballots ~~put each marksense ballot through automatic tabulating~~
2568 ~~equipment and determine whether the returns correctly reflect~~
2569 ~~the votes cast. If any marksense ballot is physically damaged so~~
2570 ~~that it cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating~~
2571 ~~equipment during the recount, a true duplicate shall be made of~~
2572 ~~the damaged ballot pursuant to the procedures in s. 101.5614(4).~~
2573 ~~Immediately before the start of the recount, a test of the~~
2574 ~~tabulating equipment shall be conducted as provided in s.~~
2575 ~~101.5612. If the test indicates no error, the recount tabulation~~

2576 ~~of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes~~
2577 ~~shall be canvassed accordingly. If an error is detected, the~~
2578 ~~cause therefor shall be ascertained and corrected and the~~
2579 ~~recount repeated, as necessary. The canvassing board shall~~
2580 ~~immediately report the error, along with the cause of the error~~
2581 ~~and the corrective measures being taken, to the Department of~~
2582 ~~State. No later than 11 days after the election, the canvassing~~
2583 ~~board shall file a separate incident report with the Department~~
2584 ~~of State, detailing the resolution of the matter and identifying~~
2585 ~~any measures that will avoid a future recurrence of the error.~~
2586 ~~If the automatic tabulating equipment used in a recount is not~~
2587 ~~part of the voting system and the ballots have already been~~
2588 ~~processed through such equipment, the canvassing board is not~~
2589 ~~required to put each ballot through any automatic tabulating~~
2590 ~~equipment again.~~

2591 (b) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a
2592 recount where touchscreen ballots were used shall manually
2593 recount the paper output from each device ~~examine the counters~~
2594 ~~on the precinct tabulators to ensure that the total of the~~
2595 ~~returns on the precinct tabulators equals the overall election~~
2596 ~~return. If there is a discrepancy between the overall election~~
2597 ~~return and the counters of the precinct tabulators, the counters~~
2598 ~~of the precinct tabulators shall be presumed correct and such~~
2599 ~~votes shall be canvassed accordingly.~~

2600 (c) The canvassing board shall submit on forms or in

2601 formats provided by the division a second set of unofficial
2602 returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide,
2603 state, or multicounty office or ballot measure. The returns
2604 shall be filed no later than 3 p.m. on the 5th day after any
2605 primary election and no later than 3 p.m. on the 9th day after
2606 any general election in which a recount was ordered by the
2607 Secretary of State. If the canvassing board is unable to
2608 complete the recount prescribed in this subsection by the
2609 deadline, the second set of unofficial returns submitted by the
2610 canvassing board shall be identical to the initial unofficial
2611 returns and the submission shall also include a detailed
2612 explanation of why it was unable to timely complete the recount.
2613 However, the canvassing board shall complete the recount
2614 prescribed in this subsection, along with any manual recount
2615 prescribed in s. 102.166, and certify election returns in
2616 accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

2617 (d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules
2618 prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified
2619 voting system, which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.

2620 Section 22. Subsection (1) is renumbered as subsection (2)
2621 and subsections (2) through (6) of section 102.166, Florida
2622 Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) through (10),
2623 respectively, present subsections (1) and (5) are amended, and
2624 new subsections (1), (3), (4), and (5) are added to that
2625 section, to read:

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2626 102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.—

2627 (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2628 contrary, if the first set of unofficial returns pursuant to s.
2629 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated
2630 or eliminated by 2 percent or less of the votes cast for such
2631 office, or if a candidate for retention to a judicial office was
2632 retained or not retained by 3 percent or less of the votes cast
2633 on the question of retention, the candidate may request a full
2634 manual recount of the original handmarked paper ballots cast in
2635 the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office in view of the
2636 public. Voting equipment, including tabulators, may not be used
2637 to sort or count ballots in the manual recount process. Ballot
2638 images may not be used as a substitute for the original
2639 handmarked paper ballots. Only original handmarked ballots and
2640 paper output from voter interface devices may be used in the
2641 manual recount process. Candidates and candidates' designees
2642 must immediately be provided all requested reports, chain of
2643 custody forms, data, and log files and any other requested
2644 information from any system used during the election, including
2645 voting systems and other election systems.

2646 (2)~~(1)~~ If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to
2647 s. 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was
2648 defeated or eliminated by 1 ~~one-quarter of a~~ percent or less of
2649 the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention
2650 to a judicial office was retained or not retained by 1 ~~one-~~

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2651 ~~quarter of a~~ percent or less of the votes cast on the question
2652 of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was
2653 approved or rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the
2654 votes cast on such measure, a manual recount of the overvotes
2655 and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of
2656 such office or ballot measure shall be ordered and conducted
2657 using original handmarked ballots and paper output from voter
2658 interface devices in view of the public, unless:

2659 (a) The candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated
2660 from contention by ~~one-quarter of~~ 1 percent or fewer of the
2661 votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not
2662 be made; or

2663 (b) The number of overvotes and undervotes is fewer than
2664 the number of votes needed to change the outcome of the
2665 election.

2666
2667 The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering a manual
2668 recount for federal, state, and multicounty races. The county
2669 canvassing board or local board responsible for certifying the
2670 election is responsible for ordering a manual recount for all
2671 other races. A manual recount consists of a recount of marksense
2672 ballots or of digital images of those ballots by a person.

2673 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2674 contrary, if a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or
2675 rejected by 2 percent or less of the votes cast on such measure,

2676 the Secretary of State or a county canvassing board or local
2677 board responsible for certifying the election in a county that
2678 is in the geographic jurisdiction of such measure may request a
2679 full manual recount of the original handmarked paper ballots
2680 cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such ballot
2681 measure in view of the public. Voting equipment, including
2682 tabulators, may not be used to sort or count ballots in the
2683 manual recount process. Ballot images may not be used as a
2684 substitute for the original handmarked paper ballots. Only
2685 original handmarked paper ballots may be used in the manual
2686 recount process. The Secretary of State or the county canvassing
2687 board or local board must immediately be provided all requested
2688 reports, chain of custody forms, data, and log files and any
2689 other requested information from any equipment used during the
2690 election, including voting systems and other election systems.
2691 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2692 contrary, upon delivery of a petition signed by at least 5
2693 percent of county voters, a comprehensive audit must be
2694 conducted and include all paper ballots, vote-by-mail voter
2695 certificate envelopes, digital ballots, digital signatures in
2696 voter roll file alongside the corresponding digital signatures
2697 of vote-by-mail voter certificate envelopes, voter rolls, and
2698 other equipment used in the given precinct election being
2699 audited. The auditors for such audit must be chosen by the
2700 petitioning voters and the audit must be completed in view of

2701 the public.

2702 (a) If the electors' petition concerns a single race, a
2703 manual audit shall consist of a public manual tally of the votes
2704 cast in that race appearing on the ballot. The tally sheet must
2705 include election day, vote-by-mail, early voting, provisional,
2706 and overseas paper ballots. In addition, the audit must include
2707 data collection and signature comparison, whether in paper or
2708 electronic form, of all vote-by-mail voter certificate
2709 envelopes, paper ballots, signatures, including all signatures
2710 in voter registration files, voter roll files, and other
2711 equipment used in the voting district being audited.

2712 (b) If the electors' petition concerns the votes cast
2713 across every race that appears on the ballot, a manual audit of
2714 the votes cast across every race appearing on the ballot shall
2715 be conducted. The tally sheet must include election day, vote-
2716 by-mail, early voting, provisional, and overseas paper ballots.
2717 In addition, the audit must include data collection and
2718 signature comparison, whether in paper or electronic form, of
2719 all vote-by-mail voter certificate envelopes; ballots;
2720 signatures, including all signatures in voter registration
2721 files; voter roll files; and other equipment used in the voting
2722 district being audited.

2723 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
2724 contrary, if there is a discrepancy of more than the margin of
2725 victory in any race on the ballot reconciliation report, a

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2726 manual audit of original ballots, voter certificate envelopes,
2727 and chain of custody forms must be completed for that race,
2728 including all paper ballots, vote-by-mail voter certificate
2729 envelopes, digital ballots, digital signatures in voter roll
2730 file alongside the corresponding digital signatures of the vote-
2731 by-mail voter certificate envelopes, voter rolls, and other
2732 equipment used in the given precinct election being audited. The
2733 auditors for such audit must be chosen by the Division of
2734 Elections and the audit must be completed in view of the public.

2735 (6)-(5) Procedures for a manual recount are as follows:

2736 (a) The county canvassing board shall appoint as many
2737 counting teams of at least two electors as is necessary to
2738 manually recount the ballots. A counting team must have, when
2739 possible, members of at least two political parties. A candidate
2740 involved in the race shall not be a member of the counting team.

2741 (b) Each duplicate ballot prepared pursuant to s.
2742 101.5614(4) or s. 102.141(9) ~~s. 102.141(7)~~ shall be compared
2743 with the original ballot to ensure the correctness of the
2744 duplicate.

2745 (c) If a counting team is unable to determine whether the
2746 ballot contains a clear indication that the voter has made a
2747 definite choice, the ballot shall be presented to the county
2748 canvassing board for a determination.

2749 (d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules
2750 prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified

2751 voting system which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.

2752 The rules shall address, at a minimum, the following areas:

2753 1. Security of ballots during the recount process;

2754 2. Time and place of recounts;

2755 3. Public observance of recounts;

2756 4. Objections to ballot determinations;

2757 5. Record of recount proceedings;

2758 6. Procedures relating to candidate and petitioner

2759 representatives; and

2760 7. Procedures relating to the certification and the use of

2761 automatic tabulating equipment that is not part of a voting

2762 system.

2763 Section 23. Section 104.21, Florida Statutes, is amended

2764 to read:

2765 104.21 Changing electors' ballots or voter certificate
 2766 envelopes.—

2767 (1) Whoever fraudulently changes or attempts to change the
 2768 vote or ballot of any elector, by which actions such elector is
 2769 prevented from voting such ballot or from voting such ballot as
 2770 the elector intended, is guilty of a felony of the third degree,
 2771 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2772 (2) An election worker who changes any information or
 2773 marking on a voter certificate envelope in an attempt to cure an
 2774 envelope deficiency commits a misdemeanor of the second degree,
 2775 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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2776 Section 24. Section 104.291, Florida Statutes, is created
2777 to read:

2778 104.291 False representation of poll watcher
2779 identification.—A poll watcher who wears a poll watcher
2780 identification badge that belongs to another person commits a
2781 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
2782 775.082 or s. 775.083.

2783 Section 25. Section 104.30, Florida Statutes, is amended
2784 to read:

2785 104.30 Voting system; unlawful possession; tampering.—

2786 (1) Any unauthorized person who unlawfully has possession
2787 of any voting system, components, or key thereof commits is
2788 ~~guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
2789 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

2790 (2) Any person who tampers or attempts to tamper with or
2791 destroy any voting system or equipment with the intention of
2792 interfering with the election process or the results thereof
2793 commits is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as
2794 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2795 (3) Any person who without lawful authorization prints a
2796 ballot or voter certificate envelope that appears to be a valid
2797 ballot or voter certificate envelope in this state commits a
2798 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.
2799 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

2800 Section 26. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.