

## CHAPTER 2010-167

### Council Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 131

An act relating to elections; creating s. 97.0115, F.S.; providing that all matters in chapters 97 through 105, F.S., are preempted to the state, unless otherwise specified; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining the term “absent uniformed services voter”; revising the definition of the term “overseas voter”; amending s. 98.0981, F.S., relating to statewide voter information; conforming a cross-reference; ; amending s. 101.111, F.S.; revising voter challenge oath requirements; providing circumstances under which a challenged voter may execute a change of legal residence, be directed to the proper precinct, or vote a provisional ballot; amending s. 101.56075, F.S.; extending the deadline by which persons with disabilities will be required to vote on voter interface devices meeting specified requirements; amending s. 101.5612, F.S.; requiring the supervisor of elections to publish on his or her website a notice of testing of tabulating equipment; requiring the use of certain ballots and technology for preelection testing of tabulating equipment; amending s. 101.62, F.S.; requiring the supervisor of elections to notify the absent uniformed services voter and overseas voter of the free access system for determining absentee ballot status; providing a timeframe for an absentee ballot to be sent to each absent uniformed services voter and overseas voter; providing acceptable formats for requesting an absentee ballot; modifying circumstances under which the department is authorized to prescribe rules for a ballot to be sent to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters; amending s. 101.694, F.S.; requiring a supervisor to send absentee ballots by specified means to certain persons upon receipt of a federal postcard application; deleting provisions relating to the period for which an absentee ballot request is valid; amending s. 101.6952, F.S.; revising responsibilities of the supervisor of elections when an absent uniformed services voter’s or overseas voter’s request for an absentee ballot includes an e-mail address; requiring the supervisor to record the e-mail address in the absentee ballot record and, via e-mail, confirm that the request was received, inform the voter of the estimated date the absentee ballot will be sent, and notify the voter when the voted absentee ballot is received; amending s. 101.71, F.S.; requiring the supervisor of elections to ensure the provision of adequate supplies, equipment, and personnel when precincts are collocated; requiring the supervisor of elections to publish the relocation of a polling place on his or her website; amending s. 102.012, F.S.; allowing the supervisor of elections to appoint one election board for collocated precincts and requiring the appointment of adequate personnel for the collocated precincts; amending s. 102.111, F.S.; clarifying that the Governor and Cabinet members shall serve ex officio on the Elections Canvassing Commission; establishing meeting times for the commission; amending s. 102.112, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 102.141, F.S.; requiring the supervisor of elections to publish on his or her

website notice of the time for canvassing absentee and provisional ballots; providing circumstances under which the Secretary of State, county canvassing board, or local board is responsible for ordering recounts in elections; specifying the time for filing returns for elections in which a recount was ordered; amending s. 102.166, F.S.; providing circumstances under which the Secretary of State, county canvassing board, or local board is responsible for ordering a manual recount of overvotes and undervotes; amending s. 106.25, F.S.; authorizing the Florida Elections Commission to determine whether a person's conduct was willful in an informal hearing following a finding of probable cause; providing a short title; amending s. 106.143, F.S.; providing an alternative statement that may be used to identify a candidate as the sponsor of a political advertisement under certain circumstances; providing circumstances under which certain campaign messages and political advertisements are not required to state or display specific information regarding the identity of the candidate, his or her party affiliation, and the office sought in the message or advertisement; authorizing a candidate or political committee to place a statement on a social networking website or account indicating that the site or account is an official site or account approved by the candidate or political committee; prohibiting an official designation without the prior approval by the candidate or political committee; amending s. 106.011, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "political committee" to remove certain reporting requirements included in the exclusion of electioneering communications organizations from the definition; revising the definition of the term "filing officer" to expand applicability to electioneering communications organizations; revising the definition of the term "electioneering communication" to conform to certain federal requirements and to delineate what constitutes such a communication; revising the definition of the term "electioneering communications organization"; amending s. 106.03, F.S.; revising the registration requirements for electioneering communications organizations; revising the statement of organization requirements; revising rule adoption requirements relating to dissolution of political committees and electioneering communications organizations; amending s. 106.0703, F.S.; consolidating reporting requirements in ch. 106, F.S., applicable to electioneering communications organizations; providing penalties; conforming provisions; prohibiting the use of credit cards by electioneering communications organizations; amending s. 106.0705, F.S., relating to electronic filing of campaign treasurer's reports; conforming provisions; amending s. 106.071, F.S.; increasing the aggregate amount of expenditures required for filing certain reports related to independent expenditures or electioneering communications; amending s. 106.08, F.S.; removing certain limitations on contributions received by an electioneering communications organization; amending s. 106.1439, F.S.; providing identification requirements for certain electioneering communications; providing an exception for telephone calls; amending s. 106.147, F.S., relating to telephone solicitation disclosure requirements; removing requirements relating to electioneering communication, to conform; reenacting ss. 106.011(1)(b), (3), (4), (18), and (19), 106.022(1), 106.03(1)(b), 106.04(5), 106.0703, 106.0705(2)(b), 106.071(1), 106.08(7),

106.1437, 106.1439, and 106.17, F.S., relating to definitions, registered office and agent requirements, registration requirements, prohibited activities for committees of continuous existence, additional reporting requirements, electronic filing requirements, expenditure reports, penalties for violations pertaining to limitations on contributions, miscellaneous advertisements, electioneering communications disclaimers and penalties for failure to include disclaimers, and polls and surveys pertaining to candidacies, to cure and conform; amending s. 379.352, F.S., relating to recreational licenses and permits; conforming cross-references; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 97.0115, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

97.0115 Preemption.—All matters set forth in chapters 97-105 are preempted to the state, except as otherwise specifically authorized by state or federal law. The conduct of municipal elections shall be governed by s. 100.3605.

Section 2. Present subsections (2) through (43) of section 97.021, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (44), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (22) of that section is amended, to read:

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

(2) “Absent uniformed services voter” means:

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

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

(c) A spouse or dependent of a member referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified to vote.

~~(23)~~(22) “Overseas voter” means:

(a) An absent uniformed services voter who, by reason of active duty or service, is absent from the United States on the date of the election involved  
~~Members of the uniformed services while in the active service who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia;~~

~~(b) A person who resides outside the United States and is qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States. Members of the Merchant Marine of the United States who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia; or and~~

~~(c) A person who resides outside the United States and, but for such residence, would be qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States. Other citizens of the United States who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia,~~

~~who are qualified and registered to vote as provided by law.~~

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 98.0981, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

98.0981 Reports; voting history; statewide voter registration system information; precinct-level election results; book closing statistics.—

(3) PRECINCT-LEVEL BOOK CLOSING STATISTICS.—After the date of book closing but before the date of an election as defined in s. 97.021 ~~s. 97.021(10)~~ to fill a national, state, county, or district office, or to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment, the department shall compile the following precinct-level statistical data for each county:

- (a) Precinct numbers.
- (b) Total number of active registered voters by party for each precinct.

Section 4. Section 101.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.111 Voter challenges ~~Person desiring to vote may be challenged; challenger to execute oath; oath of person challenged; determination of challenge.—~~

(1)(a) Any registered elector or poll watcher of a county may challenge the right of a person to vote in that county. The challenge must be in writing and contain the following oath, which shall be delivered to the clerk or inspector:

OATH OF PERSON ENTERING CHALLENGE

State of Florida

County of .....

I do solemnly swear or affirm that my name is .....; that I am a member of the ..... Party; that I am a registered voter or pollwatcher; that my residence address is ....., in the municipality of .....; and that I have reason to believe

that ..... is attempting to vote illegally and the reasons for my belief are set forth herein to wit:

...(Signature of person challenging voter)...

Sworn and subscribed to before me this ..... day of ....., ...(year)...

...(Clerk of election)...

(b)1. The clerk or inspector shall immediately deliver to the challenged person a copy of the oath of the person entering the challenge, and the challenged voter shall be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in accordance with s. 101.048, except as provided in subparagraph 2.

2. If the basis for the challenge is that the person’s legal residence is not in that precinct, the person shall first be given the opportunity to execute a change of legal residence in order to be able to vote a regular ballot in accordance with s. 101.045(2). If the change of legal residence is such that the person is then properly registered for that precinct, the person shall be allowed to vote a regular ballot. If the change of legal residence places the person in another precinct, the person shall be directed to the proper precinct to vote. If such person insists that he or she is currently in the proper precinct, the person shall be allowed to vote a provisional ballot in accordance with s. 101.048.

(c) Alternatively, a challenge in accordance with this section may be filed in advance with the supervisor of elections no sooner than 30 days before an election. The supervisor shall promptly provide the election board in the challenged voter’s precinct with a copy of the oath of the person entering the challenge. The challenged voter shall be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in accordance with s. 101.048, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (b)2.

(2) Any elector or poll watcher filing a frivolous challenge of any person’s right to vote commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083; however, electors or poll watchers shall not be subject to liability for any action taken in good faith and in furtherance of any activity or duty permitted of such electors or poll watchers by law. Each instance where any elector or poll watcher files a frivolous challenge of any person’s right to vote constitutes a separate offense.

Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 101.56075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.56075 Voting methods.—

(3) By ~~2016~~ 2012, persons with disabilities shall vote on a voter interface device that meets the voter accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities under s. 301 of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and s. 101.56062 which are consistent with subsection (1) of this section.

Section 6. Subsections (2) and (5) of section 101.5612, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

101.5612 Testing of tabulating equipment.—

(2) On any day not more than 10 days prior to the commencement of early voting as provided in s. 101.657, the supervisor of elections shall have the automatic tabulating equipment publicly tested to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures. If the ballots to be used at the polling place on election day are not available at the time of the testing, the supervisor may conduct an additional test not more than 10 days before election day. Public notice of the time and place of the test shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by publication on the supervisor of elections' website and once in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, by posting the notice in at least four conspicuous places in the county. The supervisor or the municipal elections official may, at the time of qualifying, give written notice of the time and location of the public preelection test to each candidate qualifying with that office and obtain a signed receipt that the notice has been given. The Department of State shall give written notice to each statewide candidate at the time of qualifying, or immediately at the end of qualifying, that the voting equipment will be tested and advise each candidate to contact the county supervisor of elections as to the time and location of the public preelection test. The supervisor or the municipal elections official shall, at least 15 days prior to the commencement of early voting as provided in s. 101.657, send written notice by certified mail to the county party chair of each political party and to all candidates for other than statewide office whose names appear on the ballot in the county and who did not receive written notification from the supervisor or municipal elections official at the time of qualifying, stating the time and location of the public preelection test of the automatic tabulating equipment. The canvassing board shall convene, and each member of the canvassing board shall certify to the accuracy of the test. For the test, the canvassing board may designate one member to represent it. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, the press, and the public. Each political party may designate one person with expertise in the computer field who shall be allowed in the central counting room when all tests are being conducted and when the official votes are being counted. The designee shall not interfere with the normal operation of the canvassing board.

(5) Any tests involving marksense ballots pursuant to this section shall employ test preprinted ballots created by the supervisor of elections using actual ballots that have been printed for the election, ~~If preprinted ballots will be used in the election, and ballot-on-demand ballots will be used in the election, the supervisor shall also create test ballots using the, if ballot-on-demand technology that will be used to produce ballots in the election, using the same paper stock as will be used for ballots in the election or both.~~

Section 7. Subsections (1), (3), (4), and (5) of section 101.62, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

101.62 Request for absentee ballots.—

(1)(a) The supervisor shall ~~may~~ accept a request for an absentee ballot from an elector in person or in writing. ~~Except as provided in s. 101.694, One~~ request shall be deemed sufficient to receive an absentee ballot for all elections through the next ~~two~~ regularly scheduled general election ~~elections~~, unless the elector or the elector's designee indicates at the time the request is made the elections for which the elector desires to receive an absentee ballot. Such request may be considered canceled when any first-class mail sent by the supervisor to the elector is returned as undeliverable.

(b) The supervisor may accept a written or telephonic request for an absentee ballot from the elector, or, if directly instructed by the elector, a member of the elector's immediate family, or the elector's legal guardian. For purposes of this section, the term "immediate family" has the same meaning as specified in paragraph (4)(b). The person making the request must disclose:

1. The name of the elector for whom the ballot is requested.;
2. The elector's address.;
3. The elector's date of birth.;
4. The requester's name.;
5. The requester's address.;
6. The requester's driver's license number, if available.;
7. The requester's relationship to the elector.;
8. The requester's signature (written requests only).

(c) Upon receiving a request for an absentee ballot from an absent voter, the supervisor of elections shall notify the voter of the free access system that has been designated by the department for determining the status of his or her absentee ballot.

(3) For each request for an absentee ballot received, the supervisor shall record the date the request was made, the date the absentee ballot was delivered to the voter or the voter's designee or the date the absentee ballot was delivered to the post office or other carrier, the date the ballot was received by the supervisor, and such other information he or she may deem necessary. This information shall be provided in electronic format as provided by rule adopted by the division. The information shall be updated and made available no later than noon of each day beginning 60 days before the primary until 15 days after the general election and shall be

contemporaneously provided to the division. This information shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and shall be made available to or reproduced only for the voter requesting the ballot, a canvassing board, an election official, a political party or official thereof, a candidate who has filed qualification papers and is opposed in an upcoming election, and registered political committees or registered committees of continuous existence, for political purposes only.

~~(4)(a) No later than 45 days before each election, the supervisor of elections shall send an absentee ballot as provided in subparagraph (b)2. to each absent uniformed services voter and to each overseas voter who has requested an absentee ballot. To each absent qualified elector overseas who has requested an absentee ballot, the supervisor of elections shall mail an absentee ballot not less than 35 days before the primary election and not less than 45 days before the general election.~~

(b) The supervisor shall provide an absentee ballot to each elector by whom a request for that ballot has been made by one of the following means:

1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the elector's current mailing address on file with the supervisor, unless the elector specifies in the request that:

a. The elector is absent from the county and does not plan to return before the day of the election;

b. The elector is temporarily unable to occupy the residence because of hurricane, tornado, flood, fire, or other emergency or natural disaster; or

c. The elector is in a hospital, assisted living facility, nursing home, short-term medical or rehabilitation facility, or correctional facility,

in which case the supervisor shall mail the ballot by nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to any other address the elector specifies in the request.

~~2. By forwardable mail, e-mail, or facsimile machine transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter may designate in the absentee ballot request the preferred method of transmission. If the voter does not designate the method of transmission, the absentee ballot shall be mailed.~~

3. By personal delivery before 7 p.m. on election day to the elector, upon presentation of the identification required in s. 101.043.

4. By delivery to a designee on election day or up to 5 days prior to the day of an election. Any elector may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot for the elector; however, the person designated may not pick up more than two absentee ballots per election, other than the designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be picked up for members of the designee's



immediate family. For purposes of this section, "immediate family" means the designee's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the designee or of the designee's spouse. The designee shall provide to the supervisor the written authorization by the elector and a picture identification of the designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the elector to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the elector is a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the elector on the written authorization matches the signature of the elector on file, the supervisor shall give the ballot to that designee for delivery to the elector.

~~(5) If in the event that the department Elections Canvassing Commission is unable to certify candidates for the results of an election for a state office in time to comply with paragraph (4)(a) subsection (4), the Department of State is authorized to prescribe rules for a ballot to be sent to absent uniformed services voters and electors overseas voters.~~

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 101.694, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.694 Mailing of ballots upon receipt of federal postcard application.

~~(1) Upon receipt of a federal postcard application for an absentee ballot executed by a person whose registration is in order or whose application is sufficient to register or update the registration of that person, the supervisor shall send the ballot in accordance with s. 101.62(4) mail to the applicant a ballot, if the ballots are available for mailing. The federal postcard application request for an absentee ballot shall be effective for all elections through the next two regularly scheduled general elections.~~

Section 9. Effective July 1, 2010, section 101.6952, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.6952 Absentee ballots for absent uniformed services and overseas voters.—

~~(1) If an absent uniformed services voter's or an overseas voter's request for an absentee ballot includes an e-mail address, the supervisor of elections shall:~~

~~(a) Record the voter's e-mail address in the absentee ballot record;~~

~~(b) Confirm by e-mail that the absentee ballot request was received and include in that e-mail the estimated date the absentee ballot will be sent to the voter; and~~

~~(c) Notify the voter by e-mail when the voted absentee ballot is received by the supervisor of elections inform the voter of the names of candidates who will be on the ballots via electronic transmission. The supervisor of elections~~

~~shall e-mail to the voter the list of candidates for the primary and general election not later than 30 days before each election.~~

(2) For absentee ballots received from absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters, there is a presumption that the envelope was mailed on the date stated on the outside of the return envelope, regardless of the absence of a postmark on the mailed envelope or the existence of a postmark date that is later than the date of the election.

Section 10. Subsection (2) of section 101.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.71 Polling place.—

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), whenever the supervisor of elections of any county determines that the accommodations for holding any election at a polling place designated for any precinct in the county are unavailable, are inadequate for the expeditious and efficient housing and handling of voting and voting paraphernalia, or do not comply with the requirements of s. 101.715, the supervisor shall, not less than 30 days prior to the holding of an election, provide for the voting place for such precinct to be moved to another site that is accessible to the public on election day in said precinct or, if such is not available, to another site that is accessible to the public on election day in a contiguous precinct. If such action of the supervisor results in the voting place for two or more precincts being located for the purposes of an election in one building, the supervisor of elections shall provide adequate supplies, equipment, and personnel are available to accommodate the voters for the precincts that are collocated voting places for the several precincts involved shall be established and maintained separate from each other in said building. When any supervisor moves any polling place pursuant to this subsection, the supervisor shall, not more than 30 days or fewer than 7 days prior to the holding of an election, give notice of the change of the polling place for the precinct involved, with clear description of the voting place to which changed, at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the said county and on the supervisor of elections' website. A notice of the change of the polling place involved shall be mailed, at least 14 days prior to an election, to each registered elector or to each household in which there is a registered elector.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 102.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.012 Inspectors and clerks to conduct elections.—

(1)(a) The supervisor of elections of each county, at least 20 days prior to the holding of any election, shall appoint an election board comprised of poll workers who serve as clerks or inspectors for each precinct in the county. The clerk shall be in charge of, and responsible for, seeing that the election board carries out its duties and responsibilities. Each inspector and each clerk shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation, which shall be written or

printed, to the effect that he or she will perform the duties of inspector or clerk of election, respectively, according to law and will endeavor to prevent all fraud, deceit, or abuse in conducting the election. The oath may be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths or before any of the persons who are to act as inspectors, one of them to swear the others, and one of the others sworn thus, in turn, to administer the oath to the one who has not been sworn. The oaths shall be returned with the poll list and the returns of the election to the supervisor. In all questions that may arise before the members of an election board, the decision of a majority of them shall decide the question. The supervisor of elections of each county shall be responsible for the attendance and diligent performance of his or her duties by each clerk and inspector.

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

Section 12. Section 102.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.111 Elections Canvassing Commission.—

(1) The Elections Canvassing Commission shall consist of the Governor and two members of the Cabinet selected by the Governor, all of whom shall serve ex officio. If a member of the ~~Elections Canvassing~~ commission is unable to serve for any reason, the Governor shall appoint a remaining member of the Cabinet. If there is a further vacancy, the remaining members of the commission shall agree on another elected official to fill the vacancy.

(2) The Elections Canvassing Commission shall meet at 9 a.m. on the 9th day after a primary election and at 9 a.m. on the 14th day after a general election to, as soon as the official results are compiled from all counties, certify the returns of the election and ~~determine and declare who has been elected for each federal, state, and multicounty office~~. If a member of a county canvassing board that was constituted pursuant to s. 102.141 determines, within 5 days after the certification by the Elections Canvassing Commission, that a typographical error occurred in the official returns of the county, the correction of which could result in a change in the outcome of an election, the county canvassing board must certify corrected returns to the Department of State within 24 hours, and the Elections Canvassing Commission must correct and recertify the election returns as soon as practicable.

~~(3)~~(2) The Division of Elections shall provide the staff services required by the Elections Canvassing Commission.

Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 102.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.112 Deadline for submission of county returns to the Department of State.—

(2) Returns must be filed by 5 p.m. on the 7th day following a primary election and by noon on the 12th day following the general election. However, the Department of State may correct typographical errors, including the transposition of numbers, in any returns submitted to the Department of State pursuant to s. 102.111(2) ~~s. 102.111(1)~~.

Section 14. Subsections (2) and (7) of section 102.141, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

102.141 County canvassing board; duties.—

(2) The county canvassing board shall meet in a building accessible to the public in the county where the election occurred at a time and place to be designated by the supervisor of elections to publicly canvass the absentee electors' ballots as provided for in s. 101.68 and provisional ballots as provided by ss. 101.048, 101.049, and 101.6925. Provisional ballots cast pursuant to s. 101.049 shall be canvassed in a manner that votes for candidates and issues on those ballots can be segregated from other votes. Public notice of the time and place at which the county canvassing board shall meet to canvass the absentee electors' ballots and provisional ballots shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by publication on the supervisor of elections' website and once in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, by posting such notice in at least four conspicuous places in the county. As soon as the absentee electors' ballots and the provisional ballots are canvassed, the board shall proceed to publicly canvass the vote given each candidate, nominee, constitutional amendment, or other measure submitted to the electorate of the county, as shown by the returns then on file in the office of the supervisor of elections ~~and the office of the county court judge~~.

(7) If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, ~~the board responsible for certifying the results of the vote on such race or measure shall order a recount~~ shall be ordered of the votes cast with respect to such office or measure. ~~The Secretary of State Elections Canvassing Commission is the board responsible for ordering recounts in federal, state, and multicounty races~~ recounts. The county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election is responsible for ordering recounts in all other races. A recount need not be ordered with respect to the returns for any office, however, if the candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated from contention for such office by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not be made.

(a) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount shall put each marksense ballot through automatic tabulating equipment and determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast. If any marksense ballot is physically damaged so that it cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating equipment during the recount, a true duplicate shall be made of the damaged ballot pursuant to the procedures in s. 101.5614(5). Immediately before the start of the recount, a test of the tabulating equipment shall be conducted as provided in s. 101.5612. If the test indicates no error, the recount tabulation of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly. If an error is detected, the cause therefor shall be ascertained and corrected and the recount repeated, as necessary. The canvassing board shall immediately report the error, along with the cause of the error and the corrective measures being taken, to the Department of State. No later than 11 days after the election, the canvassing board shall file a separate incident report with the Department of State, detailing the resolution of the matter and identifying any measures that will avoid a future recurrence of the error.

(b) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount where touchscreen ballots were used shall examine the counters on the precinct tabulators to ensure that the total of the returns on the precinct tabulators equals the overall election return. If there is a discrepancy between the overall election return and the counters of the precinct tabulators, the counters of the precinct tabulators shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly.

(c) The canvassing board shall submit on forms or in formats provided by the division a second set of unofficial returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide, state, or multicounty office or ballot measure. The returns shall be filed no later than 3 p.m. on the 5th fifth day after any primary election and no later than 3 p.m. on the 9th ninth day after any general election in which a recount was ordered by the Secretary of State conducted pursuant to this subsection. If the canvassing board is unable to complete the recount prescribed in this subsection by the deadline, the second set of unofficial returns submitted by the canvassing board shall be identical to the initial unofficial returns and the submission shall also include a detailed explanation of why it was unable to timely complete the recount. However, the canvassing board shall complete the recount prescribed in this subsection, along with any manual recount prescribed in s. 102.166, and certify election returns in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

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

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 102.166, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.—

(1) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to s. 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, ~~the board responsible for certifying the results of the vote on such race or measure shall order a manual recount of the overvotes and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office or ballot measure shall be ordered unless: A manual recount may not be ordered, however, if~~

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

(b) The number of overvotes and, undervotes, and provisional ballots is fewer than the number of votes needed to change the outcome of the election.

The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering a manual recount for federal, state, and multicounty races. The county canvassing board or local board responsible for certifying the election is responsible for ordering a manual recount for all other races.

Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 106.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106.25 Reports of alleged violations to Florida Elections Commission; disposition of findings.—

(3) For the purposes of commission jurisdiction, a violation shall mean the willful performance of an act prohibited by this chapter or chapter 104 or the willful failure to perform an act required by this chapter or chapter 104. Willfulness is a determination of fact; however, at the request of the respondent at any time after probable cause is found, willfulness may be considered and determined in an informal hearing before the commission.

Section 17. Section 18 of this act may be cited as the “Technology in Elections Act.”

Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 106.143, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsection (8) of that section is renumbered as subsection (9), and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

106.143 Political advertisements circulated prior to election; requirements.—

(1)(a) Any political advertisement that is paid for by a candidate and that is published, displayed, or circulated before ~~prior to~~, or on the day of, any election must prominently state:

1. “Political advertisement paid for and approved by ...(name of candidate)..., ...(party affiliation)..., for ...(office sought)...”; or

2. “Paid by ...(name of candidate)..., ...(party affiliation)..., for ...(office sought)...”

(b) Any other political advertisement published, displayed, or circulated before ~~prior to~~, or on the day of, any election must prominently:

1. Be marked “paid political advertisement” or with the abbreviation “pd. pol. adv.”

2. State the name and address of the persons sponsoring the advertisement.

3.a.(I) State whether the advertisement and the cost of production is paid for or provided in kind by or at the expense of the entity publishing, displaying, broadcasting, or circulating the political advertisement; or

(II) State who provided or paid for the advertisement and cost of production, if different from the source of sponsorship.

b. This subparagraph does not apply if the source of the sponsorship is patently clear from the content or format of the political advertisement.

(c) Any political advertisement made pursuant to s. 106.021(3)(d) must be marked “paid political advertisement” or with the abbreviation “pd. pol. adv.” and must prominently state, “Paid for and sponsored by ...(name of person paying for political advertisement)... Approved by ...(names of persons, party affiliation, and offices sought in the political advertisement) ....”

~~This subsection does not apply to campaign messages used by a candidate and the candidate’s supporters if those messages are designed to be worn by a person.~~

(8) This section does not apply to any campaign message or political advertisement used by a candidate and the candidate’s supporters or by a political committee if the message or advertisement is:

(a) Designed to be worn by a person.

(b) Placed as a paid link on an Internet website, provided the message or advertisement is no more than 200 characters in length and the link directs the user to another Internet website that complies with subsection (1).

(c) Placed as a graphic or picture link where compliance with the requirements of this section is not reasonably practical due to the size of the graphic or picture link and the link directs the user to another Internet website that complies with subsection (1).

(d) Placed at no cost on an Internet website for which there is no cost to post content for public users.

(e) Placed or distributed on an unpaid profile or account which is available to the public without charge or on a social networking Internet website, as long as the source of the message or advertisement is patently clear from the content or format of the message or advertisement. A candidate or political committee may prominently display a statement indicating that the website or account is an official website or account of the candidate or political committee and is approved by the candidate or political committee. A website or account may not be marked as official without prior approval by the candidate or political committee.

(f) Distributed as a text message or other message via Short Message Service, provided the message is no more than 200 characters in length or requires the recipient to sign up or opt in to receive it.

(g) Connected with or included in any software application or accompanying function, provided that the user signs up, opts in, downloads, or otherwise accesses the application from or through a website that complies with subsection (1).

(h) Sent by a third-party user from or through a campaign or committee's website, provided the website complies with subsection (1).

(i) Contained in or distributed through any other technology-related item, service, or device for which compliance with subsection (1) is not reasonably practical due to the size or nature of such item, service, or device as available, or the means of displaying the message or advertisement makes compliance with subsection (1) impracticable.

~~(9)~~(8) Any person who willfully violates any provision of this section is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

Section 19. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 106.011, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended, subsections (3) and (4) of that section are reenacted, subsection (14) of that section is amended, and subsections (18) and (19) of that section are reenacted and amended, to read:

106.011 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1)

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the following entities are not considered political committees for purposes of this chapter:

1. Organizations which are certified by the Department of State as committees of continuous existence pursuant to s. 106.04, national political parties, and the state and county executive committees of political parties regulated by chapter 103.



2. Corporations regulated by chapter 607 or chapter 617 or other business entities formed for purposes other than to support or oppose issues or candidates, if their political activities are limited to contributions to candidates, political parties, or political committees or expenditures in support of or opposition to an issue from corporate or business funds and if no contributions are received by such corporations or business entities.

3. Electioneering communications organizations as defined in subsection (19); ~~however, such organizations shall be required to register with and report expenditures and contributions, including contributions received from committees of continuous existence, to the Division of Elections in the same manner, at the same time, and subject to the same penalties as a political committee supporting or opposing an issue or a legislative candidate, except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter.~~

(3) “Contribution” means:

(a) A gift, subscription, conveyance, deposit, loan, payment, or distribution of money or anything of value, including contributions in kind having an attributable monetary value in any form, made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or making an electioneering communication.

(b) A transfer of funds between political committees, between committees of continuous existence, between electioneering communications organizations, or between any combination of these groups.

(c) The payment, by any person other than a candidate or political committee, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to a candidate or political committee without charge to the candidate or committee for such services.

(d) The transfer of funds by a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer between a primary depository and a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit, and the term includes any interest earned on such account or certificate.

Notwithstanding the foregoing meanings of “contribution,” the word shall not be construed to include services, including, but not limited to, legal and accounting services, provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee. This definition shall not be construed to include editorial endorsements.

(4)(a) “Expenditure” means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, transfer of funds by a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer between a primary depository and a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit, or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election or making an electioneering communication. However, “expenditure” does not include a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, or gift of money or anything

of value made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election when made by an organization, in existence prior to the time during which a candidate qualifies or an issue is placed on the ballot for that election, for the purpose of printing or distributing such organization's newsletter, containing a statement by such organization in support of or opposition to a candidate or issue, which newsletter is distributed only to members of such organization.

(b) As used in this chapter, an "expenditure" for an electioneering communication is made when the earliest of the following occurs:

1. A person enters into a contract for applicable goods or services;
2. A person makes payment, in whole or in part, for the production or public dissemination of applicable goods or services; or
3. The electioneering communication is publicly disseminated.

(14) "Filing officer" means the person before whom a candidate qualifies, the agency or officer with whom a political committee or an electioneering communications organization registers, or the agency by whom a committee of continuous existence is certified.

(18)(a) "Electioneering communication" means any communication that is publicly distributed by a television station, radio station, cable television system, satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, or telephone and a paid expression in any communications media prescribed in subsection (13) by means other than the spoken word in direct conversation that:

1. ~~Refers to or depicts a clearly identified candidate for office or contains a clear reference indicating that an issue is to be voted on at an election, without expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate but that is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate; or the passage or defeat of an issue.~~

2. ~~Is made within 30 days before a primary or special primary election or 60 days before any other election for the office sought by the candidate; and~~

3. ~~Is For communications referring to or depicting a clearly identified candidate for office, is targeted to the relevant electorate. A communication is considered targeted if 1,000 or more persons in the geographic area the candidate would represent if elected will receive the communication.~~

3. ~~For communications containing a clear reference indicating that an issue is to be voted on at an election, is published after the issue is designated a ballot position or 120 days before the date of the election on the issue, whichever occurs first.~~

(b) The term "electioneering communication" does not include:

1. A communication disseminated through a means of communication other than a television station, radio station, cable television system,

satellite system, newspaper, magazine, direct mail, telephone, or statement or depiction by an organization, in existence prior to the time during which a candidate named or depicted qualifies or an issue identified is placed on the ballot for that election, made in that organization’s newsletter, which newsletter is distributed only to members of that organization.

2. A communication in a news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any radio station, television station, cable television system, or satellite system, unless the facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate. A news story distributed through the facilities owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate may nevertheless be exempt if it represents a bona fide news account communicated through a licensed broadcasting facility and the communication is part of a general pattern of campaign-related news accounts that give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the area. An editorial endorsement, news story, commentary, or editorial by any newspaper, radio, television station, or other recognized news medium.

3. A communication that constitutes a public debate or forum that includes at least two opposing candidates for an office or one advocate and one opponent of an issue, or that solely promotes such a debate or forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum, provided that:

a. The staging organization is either:

(I) A charitable organization that does not make other electioneering communications and does not otherwise support or oppose any political candidate or political party; or

(II) A newspaper, radio station, television station, or other recognized news medium; and

b. The staging organization does not structure the debate to promote or advance one candidate or issue position over another.

(c) For purposes of this chapter, an expenditure made for, or in furtherance of, an electioneering communication shall not be considered a contribution to or on behalf of any candidate.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, an electioneering communication shall not constitute an independent expenditure nor be subject to the limitations applicable to independent expenditures.

(19) “Electioneering communications organization” means any group, other than a political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence, whose election-related activities are limited to making expenditures for electioneering communications or accepting contributions for the purpose of making electioneering communications and whose activities

would not otherwise require the group to register as a political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence under this chapter.

Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 106.022, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

106.022 Appointment of a registered agent; duties.—

(1) Each political committee, committee of continuous existence, or electioneering communications organization shall have and continuously maintain in this state a registered office and a registered agent and must file with the division a statement of appointment for the registered office and registered agent. The statement of appointment must:

(a) Provide the name of the registered agent and the street address and phone number for the registered office;

(b) Identify the entity for whom the registered agent serves;

(c) Designate the address the registered agent wishes to use to receive mail;

(d) Include the entity's undertaking to inform the division of any change in such designated address;

(e) Provide for the registered agent's acceptance of the appointment, which must confirm that the registered agent is familiar with and accepts the obligations of the position as set forth in this section; and

(f) Contain the signature of the registered agent and the entity engaging the registered agent.

Section 21. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 106.03, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended, and subsections (2), (4), and (7) of that section are amended, to read:

106.03 Registration of political committees and electioneering communications organizations.—

(1)

(b)1. Each electioneering communications organization that receives anticipates receiving contributions or makes making expenditures during a calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$5,000 shall file a statement of organization as provided in subparagraph 2. ~~subsection (3)~~ by expedited delivery within 24 hours after its organization or, if later, within 24 hours after the date on which it receives ~~has information that causes the organization to anticipate that it will receive~~ contributions or makes make expenditures for an electioneering communication in excess of \$5,000.

2.a. In a statewide, legislative, or multicounty election, an electioneering communications organization shall file a statement of organization with the Division of Elections.

b. In a countywide election or any election held on less than a countywide basis, except as described in sub-subparagraph c., an electioneering communications organization shall file a statement of organization with the supervisor of elections of the county in which the election is being held.

c. In a municipal election, an electioneering communications organization shall file a statement of organization with the officer before whom municipal candidates qualify.

d. Any electioneering communications organization that would be required to file a statement of organization in two or more locations by reason of the organization’s intention to support or oppose candidates at state or multicounty and local levels of government need only file a statement of organization with the Division of Elections.

(2) The statement of organization shall include:

(a) The name, mailing address, and street address of the committee or electioneering communications organization;

(b) The names, street addresses, and relationships of affiliated or connected organizations;

(c) The area, scope, or jurisdiction of the committee or electioneering communications organization;

(d) The name, mailing address, street address, and position of the custodian of books and accounts;

(e) The name, mailing address, street address, and position of other principal officers, including the treasurer and deputy treasurer including officers and members of the finance committee, if any;

(f) The name, address, office sought, and party affiliation of:

1. Each candidate whom the committee is supporting;

2. Any other individual, if any, whom the committee is supporting for nomination for election, or election, to any public office whatever;

(g) Any issue or issues the committee ~~such organization~~ is supporting or opposing;

(h) If the committee is supporting the entire ticket of any party, a statement to that effect and the name of the party;

(i) A statement of whether the committee is a continuing one;

(j) Plans for the disposition of residual funds which will be made in the event of dissolution;

(k) A listing of all banks, safe-deposit boxes, or other depositories used for committee or electioneering communications organization funds; ~~and~~

(l) A statement of the reports required to be filed by the committee or the electioneering communications organization with federal officials, if any, and the names, addresses, and positions of such officials; and

(m) A statement of whether the electioneering communications organization was formed as a newly created organization during the current calendar quarter or was formed from an organization existing prior to the current calendar quarter. For purposes of this subsection, calendar quarters end the last day of March, June, September, and December.

(4) Any change in information previously submitted in a statement of organization shall be reported to the agency or officer with whom such committee or electioneering communications organization is required to register ~~pursuant to subsection (3)~~, within 10 days following the change.

(7) The Division of Elections shall ~~adopt~~ promulgate rules to prescribe the manner in which ~~inactive~~ committees and electioneering communications organizations may be dissolved and have their registration canceled. Such rules shall, at a minimum, provide for:

(a) Notice which shall contain the facts and conduct which warrant the intended action, including but not limited to failure to file reports and limited activity.

(b) Adequate opportunity to respond.

(c) Appeal of the decision to the Florida Elections Commission. Such appeals shall be exempt from the confidentiality provisions of s. 106.25.

Section 22. Subsection (5) of section 106.04, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

106.04 Committees of continuous existence.—

(5) No committee of continuous existence shall make an electioneering communication, contribute to any candidate or political committee an amount in excess of the limits contained in s. 106.08(1), or participate in any activity which is prohibited by this chapter. If any violation occurs, it shall be punishable as provided in this chapter for the given offense. No funds of a committee of continuous existence shall be expended on behalf of a candidate, except by means of a contribution made through the duly appointed campaign treasurer of a candidate. No such committee shall make expenditures in support of, or in opposition to, an issue unless such committee first registers as a political committee pursuant to this chapter and undertakes all the practices and procedures required thereof; provided

such committee may make contributions in a total amount not to exceed 25 percent of its aggregate income, as reflected in the annual report filed for the previous year, to one or more political committees registered pursuant to s. 106.03 and formed to support or oppose issues.

Section 23. Section 106.0703, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended to read:

106.0703 Electioneering communications organizations; ~~additional reporting requirements; certification and filing; penalties.~~—

(1)(a) Each electioneering communications organization shall file regular reports of all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the organization. Reports shall be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar quarter from the time the organization is registered. However, if the 10th day following the end of a calendar quarter occurs on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report shall be filed on the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Quarterly reports shall include all contributions received and expenditures made during the calendar quarter that have not otherwise been reported pursuant to this section.

(b) Following the last day of candidates qualifying for office, the reports shall be filed on the 32nd, 18th, and 4th days immediately preceding the primary election and on the 46th, 32nd, 18th, and 4th days immediately preceding the general election.

(c) When a special election is called to fill a vacancy in office, all electioneering communications organizations making contributions or expenditures to influence the results of the special election shall file reports with the filing officer on the dates set by the Department of State pursuant to s. 100.111.

(d) In addition, an electioneering communications organization that is registered with the Department of State and that makes a contribution or expenditure to influence the results of a county or municipal election that is not being held at the same time as a state or federal election must file reports with the county or municipal filing officer on the same dates as county or municipal candidates or committees for that election. The electioneering communications organization must also include the expenditure in the next report filed with the Division of Elections pursuant to this section following the county or municipal election.

(e) The filing officer shall make available to each electioneering communications organization a schedule designating the beginning and end of reporting periods as well as the corresponding designated due dates.

(2)(a) Except as provided in s. 106.0705, the reports required of an electioneering communications organization shall be filed with the filing officer not later than 5 p.m. of the day designated. However, any report

postmarked by the United States Postal Service no later than midnight of the day designated shall be deemed to have been filed in a timely manner. Any report received by the filing officer within 5 days after the designated due date that was delivered by the United States Postal Service shall be deemed timely filed unless it has a postmark that indicates that the report was mailed after the designated due date. A certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company, which bears a date on or before the date on which the report is due, shall be proof of mailing in a timely manner. Reports shall contain information of all previously unreported contributions received and expenditures made as of the preceding Friday, except that the report filed on the Friday immediately preceding the election shall contain information of all previously unreported contributions received and expenditures made as of the day preceding the designated due date. All such reports shall be open to public inspection.

(b)1. Any report that is deemed to be incomplete by the officer with whom the electioneering communications organization files shall be accepted on a conditional basis. The treasurer of the electioneering communications organization shall be notified, by certified mail or other common carrier that can establish proof of delivery for the notice, as to why the report is incomplete. Within 7 days after receipt of such notice, the treasurer must file an addendum to the report providing all information necessary to complete the report in compliance with this section. Failure to file a complete report after such notice constitutes a violation of this chapter.

2. Notice is deemed sufficient upon proof of delivery of written notice to the mailing or street address of the treasurer or registered agent of the electioneering communication organization on record with the filing officer.

(3)(a) Each report required by this section must contain:

1. The full name, address, and occupation, if any, of each person who has made one or more contributions to or for such electioneering communications organization within the reporting period, together with the amount and date of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporation. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less, the occupation of the contributor or the principal type of business need not be listed.

2. The name and address of each political committee from which or to which the reporting electioneering communications organization made any transfer of funds, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.

3. Each loan for electioneering communication purposes to or from any person or political committee within the reporting period, together with the full names, addresses, and occupations and principal places of business, if any, of the lender and endorsers, if any, and the date and amount of such loans.



4. A statement of each contribution, rebate, refund, or other receipt not otherwise listed under subparagraphs 1.-3.

5. The total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such electioneering communications organization during the reporting period. The reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts.

6. The full name and address of each person to whom expenditures have been made by or on behalf of the electioneering communications organization within the reporting period and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.

7. The full name and address of each person to whom an expenditure for personal services, salary, or reimbursement for expenses has been made and that is not otherwise reported, including the amount, date, and purpose of the expenditure.

8. The total sum of expenditures made by the electioneering communications organization during the reporting period.

9. The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by or to the electioneering communications organization that relate to the conduct of any electioneering communication.

10. The amount and nature of any separate interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit and identification of the financial institution in which such accounts or certificates of deposit are located.

11. The primary purposes of an expenditure made indirectly through an electioneering communications organization for goods and services, such as communications media placement or procurement services and other expenditures that include multiple components as part of the expenditure. The primary purpose of an expenditure shall be that purpose, including integral and directly related components, that comprises 80 percent of such expenditure.

(b) The filing officer shall make available to any electioneering communications organization a reporting form which the electioneering communications organization may use to indicate contributions received by the electioneering communications organization but returned to the contributor before deposit.

(4) The treasurer of the electioneering communications organization shall certify as to the correctness of each report, and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. Any treasurer who willfully certifies the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(5) The electioneering communications organization depository shall provide statements reflecting deposits and expenditures from the account to the treasurer, who shall retain the records pursuant to s. 106.06. The records maintained by the depository with respect to the account shall be subject to inspection by an agent of the Division of Elections or the Florida Elections Commission at any time during normal banking hours, and such depository shall furnish certified copies of any such records to the Division of Elections or the Florida Elections Commission upon request.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, in any reporting period during which an electioneering communications organization has not received funds, made any contributions, or expended any reportable funds, the treasurer shall file a written report with the filing officer by the prescribed reporting date that no reportable contributions or expenditures were made during the reporting period.

(7)(a) Any electioneering communications organization failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine as provided in paragraph (b) for each late day. The fine shall be assessed by the filing officer and the moneys collected shall be deposited:

1. In the General Revenue Fund, in the case of an electioneering communications organization that registers with the Division of Elections; or

2. In the general revenue fund of the political subdivision, in the case of an electioneering communications organization that registers with an officer of a political subdivision.

No separate fine shall be assessed for failure to file a copy of any report required by this section.

(b) Upon determining that a report is late, the filing officer shall immediately notify the electioneering communications organization as to the failure to file a report by the designated due date and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. The fine shall be \$50 per day for the first 3 days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for the reports immediately preceding each primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Upon receipt of the report, the filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the electioneering communications organization. The filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine due based upon the earliest of the following:

1. When the report is actually received by such officer.
2. When the report is postmarked.
3. When the certificate of mailing is dated.

4. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

5. When the electronic receipt issued pursuant to s. 106.0705 or other electronic filing system authorized in this section is dated.

Such fine shall be paid to the filing officer within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due, unless appeal is made to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to paragraph (c). Notice is deemed sufficient upon proof of delivery of written notice to the mailing or street address on record with the filing officer. An officer or member of an electioneering communications organization shall not be personally liable for such fine.

(c) The treasurer of an electioneering communications organization may appeal or dispute the fine, based upon, but not limited to, unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Florida Elections Commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part. The Florida Elections Commission must consider the mitigating and aggravating circumstances contained in s. 106.265(1) when determining the amount of a fine, if any, to be waived. Any such request shall be made within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due. In such case, the treasurer of the electioneering communications organization shall, within the 20-day period, notify the filing officer in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(d) The appropriate filing officer shall notify the Florida Elections Commission of the repeated late filing by an electioneering communications organization, the failure of an electioneering communications organization to file a report after notice, or the failure to pay the fine imposed. The commission shall investigate only those alleged late filing violations specifically identified by the filing officer and as set forth in the notification. Any other alleged violations must be stated separately and reported by the division to the commission under s. 106.25(2).

(8) In addition to the reporting requirements in s. 106.07, An electioneering communications organization shall, within 2 days after receiving its initial password or secure sign-on from the Department of State allowing confidential access to the department's electronic campaign finance filing system, electronically file the periodic campaign finance reports that would have been required pursuant to this section s. 106.07 for reportable activities that occurred since the date of the last general election.

(9) Electioneering communications organizations shall not use credit cards.

Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 106.0705, Florida Statutes, is reenacted, and subsections (3) and (4) of that section are amended, to read:

106.0705 Electronic filing of campaign treasurer's reports.—

(2)

(b) Each political committee, committee of continuous existence, electioneering communications organization, or state executive committee that is required to file reports with the division under s. 106.04, s. 106.07, s. 106.0703, or s. 106.29, as applicable, must file such reports with the division by means of the division's electronic filing system.

(3) Reports filed pursuant to this section shall be completed and filed through the electronic filing system not later than midnight of the day designated. Reports not filed by midnight of the day designated are late filed and are subject to the penalties under s. 106.04(8), s. 106.07(8), s. 106.0703(7), or s. 106.29(3), as applicable.

(4) Each report filed pursuant to this section is considered to be under oath by the candidate and treasurer, ~~or the chair and treasurer, or the treasurer under s. 106.0703~~, whichever is applicable, and such persons are subject to the provisions of s. 106.04(4)(d), s. 106.07(5), s. 106.0703(4), or s. 106.29(2), as applicable. Persons given a secure sign-on to the electronic filing system are responsible for protecting such from disclosure and are responsible for all filings using such credentials, unless they have notified the division that their credentials have been compromised.

Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 106.071, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended to read:

106.071 Independent expenditures; electioneering communications; reports; disclaimers.—

(1) Each person who makes an independent expenditure with respect to any candidate or issue, and each individual who makes an expenditure for an electioneering communication which is not otherwise reported pursuant to this chapter, which expenditure, in the aggregate, is in the amount of \$5,000 ~~\$100~~ or more, shall file periodic reports of such expenditures in the same manner, at the same time, subject to the same penalties, and with the same officer as a political committee supporting or opposing such candidate or issue. The report shall contain the full name and address of the person making the expenditure; the full name and address of each person to whom and for whom each such expenditure has been made; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; a description of the services or goods obtained by each such expenditure; the issue to which the expenditure relates; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made.

Section 26. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 106.08, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (7) of that section is reenacted, to read:

106.08 Contributions; limitations on.—

(4)(a) Any contribution received by the chair, campaign treasurer, or deputy campaign treasurer of a political committee supporting or opposing a

candidate with opposition in an election or supporting or opposing an issue on the ballot in an election on the day of that election or less than 5 days prior to the day of that election may not be obligated or expended by the committee until after the date of the election.

~~(b) Any contribution received by an electioneering communications organization on the day of an election or less than 5 days prior to the day of that election may not be obligated or expended by the organization until after the date of the election and may not be expended to pay for any obligation arising prior to the election.~~

(5)(a) A person may not make any contribution through or in the name of another, directly or indirectly, in any election.

(b) Candidates, political committees, and political parties may not solicit contributions from any religious, charitable, civic, or other causes or organizations established primarily for the public good.

(c) Candidates, political committees, and political parties may not make contributions, in exchange for political support, to any religious, charitable, civic, or other cause or organization established primarily for the public good. It is not a violation of this paragraph for:

1. A candidate, political committee, or political party executive committee to make gifts of money in lieu of flowers in memory of a deceased person;
2. A candidate to continue membership in, or make regular donations from personal or business funds to, religious, political party, civic, or charitable groups of which the candidate is a member or to which the candidate has been a regular donor for more than 6 months; or
3. A candidate to purchase, with campaign funds, tickets, admission to events, or advertisements from religious, civic, political party, or charitable groups.

~~(d) An electioneering communications organization may not accept a contribution from an organization exempt from taxation under s. 527 or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, other than a political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party, unless the contributing organization has registered as if the organization were an electioneering communications organization pursuant to s. 106.03 and has filed all campaign finance reports required of electioneering communications organizations pursuant to ss. 106.07 and 106.0703.~~

(7)(a) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes or accepts no more than one contribution in violation of subsection (1) or subsection (5), or any person who knowingly and willfully fails or refuses to return any contribution as required in subsection (3), commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If any corporation, partnership, or other business entity or any political party, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or electioneering

communications organization is convicted of knowingly and willfully violating any provision punishable under this paragraph, it shall be fined not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000. If it is a domestic entity, it may be ordered dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction; if it is a foreign or nonresident business entity, its right to do business in this state may be forfeited. Any officer, partner, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, or of a political party, political committee, committee of continuous existence, electioneering communications organization, or organization exempt from taxation under s. 527 or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, who aids, abets, advises, or participates in a violation of any provision punishable under this paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes or accepts two or more contributions in violation of subsection (1) or subsection (5) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. If any corporation, partnership, or other business entity or any political party, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or electioneering communications organization is convicted of knowingly and willfully violating any provision punishable under this paragraph, it shall be fined not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$50,000. If it is a domestic entity, it may be ordered dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction; if it is a foreign or nonresident business entity, its right to do business in this state may be forfeited. Any officer, partner, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, or of a political committee, committee of continuous existence, political party, or electioneering communications organization, or organization exempt from taxation under s. 527 or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, who aids, abets, advises, or participates in a violation of any provision punishable under this paragraph commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 27. Section 106.1437, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

106.1437 Miscellaneous advertisements.—Any advertisement, other than a political advertisement, independent expenditure, or electioneering communication, on billboards, bumper stickers, radio, or television, or in a newspaper, a magazine, or a periodical, intended to influence public policy or the vote of a public official, shall clearly designate the sponsor of such advertisement by including a clearly readable statement of sponsorship. If the advertisement is broadcast on television, the advertisement shall also contain a verbal statement of sponsorship. This section shall not apply to an editorial endorsement.

Section 28. Section 106.1439, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended to read:

106.1439 Electioneering communications; disclaimers.—

(1) Any electioneering communication, other than a telephone call, shall prominently state: “Paid electioneering communication paid for by ...(Name and address of person paying for the communication)...”

(2) Any electioneering communication telephone call shall identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the call by stating either: “Paid for by ... (insert name of persons or organizations sponsoring the call)...” or “Paid for on behalf of ... (insert name of persons or organizations authorizing call)...” This subsection does not apply to any telephone call in which the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.

~~(3)~~(2) Any person who fails to include the disclaimer prescribed in this section in any electioneering communication that is required to contain such disclaimer commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 29. Paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (1) of section 106.147, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

106.147 Telephone solicitation; disclosure requirements; prohibitions; exemptions; penalties.—

(1)(a) ~~Any electioneering communication telephone call or any telephone call supporting or opposing a candidate, elected public official, or ballot proposal must identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the call by stating either: “paid for by .....” (insert name of persons or organizations sponsoring the call) or “paid for on behalf of .....” (insert name of persons or organizations authorizing call). This paragraph does not apply to any telephone call in which both the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.~~

~~(e) Any electioneering communication paid for with public funds must include a disclaimer containing the words “paid for by ...(Name of the government entity paying for the communication)...”~~

Section 30. Section 106.17, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

106.17 Polls and surveys relating to candidacies.—Any candidate, political committee, committee of continuous existence, electioneering communication organization, or state or county executive committee of a political party may authorize or conduct a political poll, survey, index, or measurement of any kind relating to candidacy for public office so long as the candidate, political committee, committee of continuous existence, electioneering communication organization, or political party maintains complete jurisdiction over the poll in all its aspects.

Section 31. Subsection (11) of section 379.352, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.352 Recreational licenses, permits, and authorization numbers to take wild animal life, freshwater aquatic life, and marine life; issuance; costs; reporting.—

(11) When acting in its official capacity pursuant to this section, neither the commission nor a subagent is deemed a third-party registration organization, as defined in s. 97.021 ~~s. 97.021(36)~~, or a voter registration agency, as defined in s. 97.021 ~~s. 97.021(40)~~, and is not authorized to solicit, accept, or collect voter registration applications or provide voter registration services.

Section 32. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 28, 2010.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 28, 2010.