

## CHAPTER 2012-156

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 116

An act relating to freeholder voting; amending s. 100.241, F.S.; permitting the submission of a written declaration to establish that an elector is a freeholder and qualified to vote in an election or referendum limited to freeholders who are qualified to vote; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 100.241, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

100.241 Freeholder voting; election; penalties for ineligible persons who vote as freeholders.—

(1) In any election or referendum in which only electors who are freeholders are qualified to vote, the regular registration books covering the precincts located within the geographical area in which the election or referendum is to be held shall be used.

(2) Qualification and registration of electors participating in a freeholder ~~such an~~ election or referendum subject to this section shall be the same as prescribed for voting in other elections under this code, and, in addition, each such elector shall submit a written declaration, verified pursuant to s. 92.525, affirming proof by affidavit made before an inspector that the elector is a freeholder who is a qualified elector residing in the county, district, or municipality in which the election or referendum is to be held.

(3) Each registered elector who submits the written declaration ~~makes a sworn affidavit of ownership to the inspectors,~~ giving either a legal description, address, or location of property in the elector's name which is not wholly exempt from taxation is ~~shall be~~ entitled to vote in the election or referendum and is ~~shall be~~ considered a freeholder.

(4) The actual costs of conducting a freeholder ~~such freeholders'~~ election or referendum subject to this section shall be paid by the county, district, or municipality requiring the election or referendum ~~same to be held~~.

(5) ~~A~~ It is unlawful for any person ~~may not~~ to vote in any county, district, or other election or referendum which is limited to a vote of the electors who are freeholders, unless the ~~such~~ person is a freeholder and a qualified elector. A ~~Any~~ person who violates ~~the provisions of this subsection~~ commits ~~is guilty~~ of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 27, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 27, 2012.