

CHAPTER 2005-278

House Bill No. 1589

An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.012, F.S.; revising the duties of the Secretary of State and the Department of State relating to election laws; providing for rulemaking; authorizing the Secretary of State to delegate voter registration and records maintenance duties to voter registration officials; providing that the secretary has a duty to bring legal action to enforce the performance of county supervisors of elections or other officials performing duties relating to the Florida Election Code; providing a prerequisite to bringing such an action; providing venue; requiring that courts give priority to such an action; providing penalties; providing for the adoption of rules; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 97.026, F.S.; providing rulemaking authority to make forms available in alternative formats and via the Internet; correcting a cross-reference; amending s. 97.051, F.S.; revising the oath taken by a person registering to vote; amending s. 97.052, F.S.; requiring that the uniform statewide voter registration application be accepted for replacement of a voter information card and signature update; revising the information the uniform statewide voter registration application must contain and must elicit from the applicant; providing for the failure of a voter registration applicant to answer questions on the voter registration application; amending s. 97.053, F.S.; revising the criteria for completeness of a voter registration application; specifying the possible valid recipients of a mailed voter registration application; revising the information needed on a voter registration application to establish an applicant's eligibility; providing for verification of authenticity of certain voter registration application information; providing for a provisional ballot to be provided to an applicant if the application is not verified by a certain date; requiring a voter registration official to enter all voter registration applications into the voter registration system within a certain time period and forward such applications to the supervisor of elections; amending s. 97.0535, F.S.; providing for applicants who have no valid Florida driver's license, identification card, or social security number; amending s. 97.055, F.S.; specifying the information updates permitted for purposes of an upcoming election once registration books are closed; amending s. 97.057, F.S.; revising the voter registration procedure by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; amending s. 97.058, F.S.; revising duties of voter registration agencies; amending s. 97.061, F.S.; revising special registration procedures for electors requiring assistance; amending s. 97.071, F.S.; redesignating the registration identification card as the voter information card; revising

the required contents of the card; deleting provisions relating to the second primary; amending s. 97.073, F.S.; revising the procedure by which an applicant must supply missing information on the voter registration application; revising provisions relating to cancellation of previous registration; amending s. 97.1031, F.S.; revising provisions relating to notice of change of residence, name, or party affiliation; amending s. 97.105, F.S., relating to establishment of the permanent single registration system, to conform; amending s. 98.015, F.S.; revising the duties of supervisors of elections; creating s. 98.035, F.S.; establishing a statewide voter registration system; requiring the Secretary of State to be responsible for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the system; prohibiting the department from contracting with any other entity to operate the system; authorizing the department to adopt rules relating to the access, use, and operation of the system; amending s. 98.045, F.S.; revising provisions relating to administration of voter registration; providing for the responsibility of such administration to be undertaken by the department in lieu of supervisors of elections; specifying ineligibility criteria; revising provisions relating to removal of registered voters; revising provisions relating to public records access and retention; providing for the establishment of a statewide electronic database of valid residential street addresses; authorizing the department to adopt rules relating to certain voter registration system forms; amending s. 98.065, F.S.; revising provisions relating to registration records maintenance; providing for change of address; providing limitations on notice and renewal; requiring supervisors of elections to certify to the department certain list maintenance activities; providing penalties; amending s. 98.075, F.S.; providing for registration records maintenance by the department; providing procedures in cases involving duplicate registration, deceased persons, adjudication of mental incapacity, felony conviction, and other bases for ineligibility; providing procedures for removal; requiring supervisors of elections to certify to the department certain registration records maintenance activities; creating s. 98.0755, F.S.; providing for appeal of a determination of ineligibility; providing for jurisdiction, burden of proof, and trial costs; amending s. 98.077, F.S.; revising provisions relating to updating a voter's signature; amending s. 98.081, F.S., relating to removal of names from the statewide voter registration system, to conform; deleting provisions relating to the second primary; amending s. 98.093, F.S.; revising the duty of officials to furnish lists of deceased persons, persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated, and persons convicted of a felony; creating 98.0981, F.S.; requiring the department to furnish certain voter information to the Legislature; amending s. 98.212, F.S., relating to furnishing of statistical and other information, to conform; amending s. 98.461, F.S.; authorizing use of an electronic database as a precinct register and use of an electronic device for voter signatures

and witness initials; amending s. 100.371, F.S.; revising the procedure by which constitutional amendments proposed by initiative shall be placed on the ballot; amending s. 101.001, F.S.; revising requirements of supervisors relating to precincts and precinct boundaries; providing exceptions; amending s. 101.043, F.S.; revising requirements and procedures relating to identification required at polls; amending s. 101.045, F.S., relating to provisions for residence or name change at the polls, to conform; amending s. 101.048, F.S., relating to provisional ballots, to conform; amending s. 101.161, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 101.56062, F.S., relating to standards for accessible voting systems, to conform; amending s. 101.5608, F.S.; revising a provision relating to an elector's signature provided with identification prior to voting; creating s. 101.573, F.S.; requiring supervisors of elections to file precinct-level election results; requiring the Department of State to adopt rules; amending s. 101.62, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending ss. 101.64 and 101.657, F.S.; requiring that the supervisor of elections indicate on each absentee or early voted ballot the precinct of the voter; amending s. 101.663, F.S., relating to change of residence, to conform; amending s. 101.6921, F.S., relating to delivery of special absentee ballots to certain first-time voters, to conform; amending s. 101.6923, F.S., relating to special absentee ballot instructions for certain first-time voters, to conform; amending s. 102.012, F.S., relating to conduct of elections by inspectors and clerks, to conform; amending s. 104.013, F.S., relating to unauthorized use, possession, or destruction of voter information cards, to conform; amending s. 106.0705, F.S.; providing for the timely filing of certain reports; amending s. 106.08; providing for contribution limits to statewide candidates; amending s. 106.33, F.S.; increasing certain contribution limits; amending s. 106.34, F.S.; revising provisions relating to certain candidate expenditure limits; providing a definition; amending s. 196.141, F.S., relating to homestead exemptions and duties of property appraisers, to conform; amending s. 120.54, F.S.; including certain rules pertaining to the Florida Election Code within the definition of emergency rules governing public health, safety, or welfare; amending s. 99.061, F.S.; providing the method of qualifying for nomination to the office of the state attorney or public defender; amending s. 322.142, F.S.; providing for disclosure of certain confidential driver's license information to the department under certain circumstances; making it a third-degree felony to participate in certain exchanges associated with voting by absentee ballot; repealing s. 104.047(1), F.S., relating to criminal penalties for participation in certain exchanges associated with voting by absentee ballot; repealing s. 98.055, F.S., relating to registration list maintenance forms; repealing s. 98.095, F.S., relating to county registers open to inspection and copies; repealing s. 98.0977, F.S., relating to the statewide voter registration database and its operation

and maintenance; repealing s. 98.0979, F.S., relating to inspection of the statewide voter registration; repealing s. 98.101, F.S., relating to specifications for permanent registration binders, files, and forms; repealing s. 98.181, F.S., relating to duty of the supervisor of elections to make up indexes or records; repealing s. 98.231, F.S., relating to duty of the supervisor of elections to furnish the department the number of registered electors; repealing s. 98.451, F.S., relating to automation in processing registration data; repealing s. 98.481, F.S., relating to challenges to electors; repealing s. 101.635, F.S., relating to distribution of blocks of printed ballots; providing effective dates.

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

Section 50. Subsection (4) of section 120.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.54 Rulemaking.—

(4) EMERGENCY RULES.—

- (a) If an agency finds that an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action, the agency may adopt any rule necessitated by the immediate danger. The agency may adopt a rule by any procedure which is fair under the circumstances if:
1. The procedure provides at least the procedural protection given by other statutes, the State Constitution, or the United States Constitution.
 2. The agency takes only that action necessary to protect the public interest under the emergency procedure.
 3. The agency publishes in writing at the time of, or prior to, its action the specific facts and reasons for finding an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare and its reasons for concluding that the procedure used is fair under the circumstances. In any event, notice of emergency rules, other than those of educational units or units of government with jurisdiction in only one or a part of one county, including the full text of the rules, shall be published in the first available issue of the Florida Administrative Weekly and provided to the committee. The agency's findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness shall be judicially reviewable.
- (b) Rules pertaining to the public health, safety, or welfare shall include rules pertaining to perishable agricultural commodities or rules pertaining to the interpretation and implementation of the requirements of chapters 97 through 102 and 105 of the Election Code.
- (c) An emergency rule adopted under this subsection shall not be effective for a period longer than 90 days and shall not be renewable, except during the pendency of a challenge to proposed rules addressing the

subject of the emergency rule. However, the agency may take identical action by the rulemaking procedures specified in this chapter.

- (d) Subject to applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, an emergency rule becomes effective immediately on filing, or on a date less than 20 days thereafter if specified in the rule, if the adopting agency finds that such effective date is necessary because of immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

Section 56. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon becoming a law, this act shall take effect January 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor June 20, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 20, 2005.