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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Election Code; amending
 3 s. 101.161, F.S.; specifying the length of certain
 4 ballot summaries in joint resolutions of the
 5 legislature; specifying that the length of a ballot
 6 summary revised by the Attorney General is not
 7 limited; amending s. 101.657, F.S.; revising the list
 8 of permissible sites for early voting; revising the
 9 number of days and hours for early voting; providing
 10 an effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
 14 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 101.161, Florida
 15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 101.161 Referenda; ballots.—

17 (3) (a) Each joint resolution that proposes a
 18 constitutional amendment or revision shall include one or more
 19 ballot statements set forth in order of priority. Each ballot
 20 statement shall consist of a ballot title, by which the measure
 21 is commonly referred to or spoken of, not exceeding 15 words in
 22 length, and either a ballot summary that describes the chief
 23 purpose of the amendment or revision in clear and unambiguous
 24 language, or the full text of the amendment or revision. If a
 25 joint resolution that proposes a constitutional amendment or
 26 revision contains only one ballot statement, and the ballot
 27 statement includes a ballot summary, the ballot summary shall
 28 not exceed 75 words in length. If a joint resolution that

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29 | proposes a constitutional amendment or revision contains more
 30 | than one ballot statement that includes a ballot summary, the
 31 | first ballot summary in order of priority shall not exceed 75
 32 | words in length.

33 | (b) The Department of State shall furnish a designating
 34 | number pursuant to subsection (2) and the appropriate ballot
 35 | statement to the supervisor of elections of each county. The
 36 | ballot statement shall be printed on the ballot after the list
 37 | of candidates, followed by the word "yes" and also by the word
 38 | "no," and shall be styled in such a manner that a "yes" vote
 39 | will indicate approval of the amendment or revision and a "no"
 40 | vote will indicate rejection.

41 | (c)~~(b)~~1. Any action for a judicial determination that one
 42 | or more ballot statements embodied in a joint resolution are
 43 | defective must be commenced by filing a complaint or petition
 44 | with the appropriate court within 30 days after the joint
 45 | resolution is filed with the Secretary of State. The complaint
 46 | or petition shall assert all grounds for challenge to each
 47 | ballot statement. Any ground not asserted within 30 days after
 48 | the joint resolution is filed with the Secretary of State is
 49 | waived.

50 | 2. The court, including any appellate court, shall accord
 51 | an action described in subparagraph 1. priority over other
 52 | pending cases and render a decision as expeditiously as
 53 | possible. If the court finds that all ballot statements embodied
 54 | in a joint resolution are defective and further appeals are
 55 | declined, abandoned, or exhausted, unless otherwise provided in
 56 | the joint resolution, the Attorney General shall, within 10

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57 | days, prepare and submit to the Department of State a revised
 58 | ballot title or ballot summary that corrects the deficiencies
 59 | identified by the court, and the Department of State shall
 60 | furnish a designating number and the revised ballot title or
 61 | ballot summary to the supervisor of elections of each county for
 62 | placement on the ballot. The court shall retain jurisdiction
 63 | over challenges to a revised ballot title or ballot summary
 64 | prepared by the Attorney General, and any challenge to a revised
 65 | ballot title or ballot summary must be filed within 10 days
 66 | after a revised ballot title or ballot summary is submitted to
 67 | the Department of State. The 75-word limitation contained in
 68 | this subsection does not apply to any ballot summary revised by
 69 | the Attorney General to correct deficiencies identified by a
 70 | court.

71 | 3. A ballot statement that consists of the full text of an
 72 | amendment or revision shall be presumed to be a clear and
 73 | unambiguous statement of the substance and effect of the
 74 | amendment or revision, providing fair notice to the electors of
 75 | the content of the amendment or revision and sufficiently
 76 | advising electors of the issue upon which they are to vote.

77 | Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 78 | section 101.657, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

79 | 101.657 Early voting.—

80 | (1) (a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of
 81 | elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or
 82 | branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark,
 83 | code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter's precinct for
 84 | each early voted ballot. In order for a branch office to be used

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85 | for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the
 86 | supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for
 87 | at least 1 year prior to the election. The supervisor may also
 88 | designate any city hall, ~~or~~ permanent public library facility,
 89 | fairground, civic center, courthouse, county commission
 90 | building, stadium, or convention center as early voting sites;
 91 | however, if so designated, the sites must be geographically
 92 | located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal
 93 | opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. The
 94 | results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not
 95 | be made before the close of the polls on election day. Results
 96 | shall be reported by precinct.

97 | (d) Early voting shall begin on the 10th day before an
 98 | election that contains state or federal races and end on the 3rd
 99 | day before the election, and shall be provided for no less than
 100 | 6 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site during
 101 | the applicable period. In addition, early voting may be offered
 102 | at the discretion of the supervisor of elections on the 15th,
 103 | 14th, 13th, 12th, 11th, or 2nd day before an election that contains
 104 | state or federal races, for no less than 6 hours and no more
 105 | than 12 hours per day at each site, up to a maximum of 14 days
 106 | of early voting. The supervisor of elections may provide early
 107 | voting for elections that are not held in conjunction with a
 108 | state or federal election. However, the supervisor has the
 109 | discretion to determine the hours of operation of early voting
 110 | sites in those elections.

111 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.