**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1138**

**TITLE**: The Absentee Ballot Information and Accountability Act

**AUTHOR(S)**: Senator Christian Rodriguez

**SPONSORS**: Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Asif Islam, Majority Party Leader Simone Liang, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Senator Aron Ali-McClory

CHAPTER 710 – THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS ACT (2000-141, 2002-144, 2004-116, 2005-137, 2005- 138, 2006-103, 2006-108, Spring 2006 Ballot Initiative, 2006-113, 2006-117, 2006-123, 2006-129, 2007-109, 2009-100 2009-102, 2009-103, 2010-100, 2010-111, 2011-115, 2012-101, 2012-107, 2013- 102, 2014-119, 2016-104, 2017-113, 2018-124, 2019-103, 2020-1024, 2020-1043, 2021-109)


710.0 This subsection, from 710.0 to 719.999, shall be known as "The Supervisor of Elections Act."


711.0 There is hereby created the position of Supervisor of Elections. They shall be appointed by the Student Body President and shall assume office upon confirmation by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Student Senate present and voting. The Supervisor of Elections shall have served for at least one campus-wide election as either an Elections Commissioner or as an Assistant Supervisor of Elections.


711.11 The Student Senate shall be notified of the Supervisor of Elections appointment no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Student Senate meeting at which the nominee is to be presented for confirmation.


711.2 The Supervisor of Elections shall conduct and supervise all elections of the Student Body and faithfully execute those duties and responsibilities as designated by the Student Government Election Code and other duties and responsibilities designated by law or that are deemed necessary to the proper conduct of an election.


711.3 The Supervisor of Elections shall not hold nor have held any position or affiliation with any past or present Student Government political party or independent candidate during the previous two (2) election cycles.


711.31 The Supervisor of Elections shall not hold any other position or office in Student Government. The Supervisor of Elections shall not be an executive officer of any Student Government funded organization while serving as Supervisor of Elections.


711.4 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Supervisor of Elections after the

completion ofthe election cycle, a new Supervisor shall be chosen pursuant to Section 711.0, S.B.S.

711.5 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Supervisor of Elections during an election cycle, the Supreme Court shall appoint by majority vote, one of the Assistant Supervisors of Elections to be the new Supervisor of Elections. That supervisor shall take office effective upon notification of their appointment.

712.0 The Supervisor of Elections shall appoint a minimum of four (4) Assistant Supervisors of Elections at least four (4) weeks prior to the fall general election. The Supervisor of Elections may appoint any additional Assistant Supervisors of Elections that they deem necessary. Any Assistant Supervisor of Elections must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Student Senate present and voting. The Assistant Supervisor's term shall end in conjunction with the expiration of the natural term of the Supervisor of Elections.

712.1 The Student Senate shall be notified of Assistant Supervisor of Elections appointees no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Student Senate meeting at which the nominee is to be presented for confirmation.

712.11 Assistant Supervisors of Elections shall not hold any position or affiliation with any Student Government political party. The Assistant Supervisors of Elections shall not hold any other position or office in Student Government as listed in Section 130.4, S.B.S. The Assistant Supervisors of Elections shall not be an executive officer of any Student Government funded organization during their term as Assistant Supervisor of Elections.

712.12 Assistant Supervisors of Elections shall assist the Supervisor of Elections in the performance of their duties during the election cycle.

712.13 Assistant Supervisors of Elections are subject to removal of office for due cause by the Supervisor of Elections and with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Elections Commission. Any removal of an Assistant Supervisor may be appealed to the Supreme Court.

713.0 The Supervisor of Elections shall conduct a meeting on the fourth (4th) Tuesday immediately preceding the first day of elections. The purpose of this meeting shall be to inform all students wishing to participate in the upcoming elections of the rules, procedures and proper conduct required during the election cycle as stated in the Student Government ElectionsCode.

713.1 The Supervisor of Elections shall be responsible for receiving the qualifying papers of the various candidates and political parties. The Supervisor of Elections shall distribute all information concerning the Student Government Election Code including, but not limited to, all deadlines, campaign rules and campaign laws (including those email rules as promulgated under Section 764.0, S.B.S) during the qualifying process.

713.11 The Supervisor of Elections shall provide a complete list of their official Student Government contact information and the official contact information of all the members of the Elections Commission to each registered party president, independent candidate, and any interested students.

713.2 The Supervisor of Elections shall be responsible for receiving a list of campaign contributions and expenditures from each political party and independent candidate. The Supervisor of Elections shall place any list they receive pursuant to this section on public record inthe Student Government office and shall post it on the Student Government web site within twenty four (24) hours of receiving it.

713.3 The Supervisor of Elections shall submit a complete list of candidates who have qualified to the Student Government Advising & Operations, who shall certify back to the Supervisor of Elections the names of those candidates who meet all of the requirements set out in the Student Body Constitution and Student Body Statutes.

713.31 The Supervisor of Elections shall strike from the certified list of names any person who fails to meet the requirements of the office for which they are candidates. Requirements are set forth in Article VI of the Student Body Constitution.

713.32 The Supervisor of Elections shall notify any candidate who was stricken from the certified list by posting their names at the entrance of the Student Government Office in the J. Wayne Reitz Union and at the mandatory meeting required by Section 713.5, S.B.S.

713.4 The Supervisor of Elections shall post a copy of the corrected list of candidates outside the Student Government office in the J. Wayne Reitz Union by noon on the first school day after the certified list is finalized as per Section 737.0, S.B.S. The Supervisor of Elections shall submit a corrected list of candidates to the Elections Commission.

713.5 The Supervisor of Elections shall conduct a mandatory meeting on the second school day after qualifying ends to notify all candidates of the requirements of the Student Government Election Code.

713.6 The Supervisor of Elections shall make available a current copy of the Student Government Election Code and other regulations on the Student Government website and provide directions on how to access the information to any student upon request.

713.7 The Supervisor of Elections, alongside Assistant Supervisors of Elections, shall plan and preside over the implementation of the Student Government Debate during the Spring election cycle. The attendance of each political party's properly qualified executive candidate(s) shall be required. Refusal to attend shall be grounds for disqualification.

713.71 In the event that only one party has a fully qualified executive slate, the Supervisor of Elections will not be required to host the Student Government Debate.

713.72 The Student Government Debate shall take place no earlier than the day after the mandatory candidate meeting described in Section 713.5, S.B.S. and no later than the Friday immediately preceding the spring general election.

713.73 The Supervisor of Elections shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the Student Government Debate is made available to the public as audio and/or video within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the debate. Additionally, the Supervisor of Elections shall

ensure that a debate transcript is made available to the public within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the debate.

713.74 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that the content of the Student Government Debate is created in conjunction with the Student Government Advising & Operations team or Student Government Advising & Operations designee.

714.0 The Supervisor of Elections shall be responsible for the preparation of the ballot and for the preparation of the absentee ballot. The ballot shall contain names of all candidates as defined in Section 713.4, S.B.S. The ballot shall also contain adequate provision for writing in the names of candidates not appearing thereon unless it is to be used in a run-off election as defined in Section 700.4 (cc), S.B.S.

714.1 The Supervisor of Elections shall supply an absentee ballot to every elector who requests an absentee ballot by the second Wednesday immediately preceding the elections by 5:00 P.M.

714.2 The Supervisor of Elections shall provide paper-based absentee ballot applications in the Student Government Office and maintain a page on the official Student Government website containing an electronic absentee ballot application allowing any elector to instantly apply for an absentee ballot over the Internet.

714.3 The Supervisor of Elections shall make all reasonable efforts, including but not limited to the actions stipulated by Sections 714.31-714.32, S.B.S., to notify every elector, including those enrolled at satellite campuses, of the absentee balloting process at least two weeks prior to the deadline stipulated by Section 714.1, S.B.S.

714.31 The Supervisor of Elections shall draft a social media post to inform every elector of their right to request and vote by an absentee ballot and encourage them to exercise this right if voting in person will be inconvenient for them. The Supervisor of Elections shall draft at least two such social media posts, with at least one social media post sent to the Action SG Chairperson for posting between five (5) and six (6) business days before the electronic form submission deadline and at least one social media post sent to the Action SG Chairperson for posting between two and three business days before the deadline. Each such post must be sent to the Action SG Chairperson between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Additionally, the posts shall include the following:

      (a) A direct link to the electronic form mandated in Section 714.2, S.B.S.

      (b) The date and time by which the electronic form must be submitted for the request to be processed.

714.32      At least two (2) weeks prior to the deadline for requesting absentee ballots, the Supervisor of Elections will submit information regarding absentee ballot deadlines and requests to the following authorities for the purpose of being sent to students:

        1. College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee

2. College of the Arts Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
3. Warrington College of Business Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
4. College of Dentistry Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
5. College of Design, Construction, and Planning Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
6. College of Education Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
7. Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
8. College of Health and Human Performance Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
9. College of Journalism and Communications Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
10. Levin College of Law Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
11. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
12. College of Medicine Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
13. College of Nursing Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
14. College of Pharmacy Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
15. College of Public Health and Health Professions Dean's Office or Communications Overseeing Designee
16. College of Veterinary Medicine Dean's Office or Communication Overseeing Designee

714.4   In the event of a runoff election, the Supervisor of Elections shall supply an absentee ballot automatically to every elector who requested one for the general election.

714.5 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that all candidates for a given office are listed in alphabetical order within party groups on the ballot. For the purpose of listing candidates, all independent candidates shall be grouped together in alphabetical order as if they were a party.

714.6 The order of political parties listed in Section 714.5, S.B.S. on the ballot shall be randomly determined at the mandatory candidates' meeting by the Supervisor of Elections drawing from a hat the names of the registered political parties and the label independent. The drawing shall be open to the public.

714.7 The Supervisor of Elections shall make available upon request a sample ballot to any interested individuals at every polling location and in the Student Government office, and on the Student Government website.

714.8 The Supervisor of Elections shall submit to the Chair of the Elections Commission a list of proposed polling locations at least 15 business days before the election. The proposed list shall be posted in a public place with the date, time, and location of the meetings required in Section 723.21, S.B.S.

714.81 In the event that a polling location becomes unavailable due to an event or circumstance outside the control of the elections staff, the Supervisor of Elections, at their discretion, may add or change a polling location to the nearest available building so long as it is properly noticed at the original polling location, S.B.S.

714.9 If Secure Location Electronic Voting is implemented, the Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that a contingency plan with secondary polling locations is in place.

714.91 The Supervisor of Elections' contingency plan shall be presented before the Senate two weeks prior to the election cycle.

715.0 The Supervisor of Elections shall post signs the day prior to the election and days of the elections near the polling locations that shall read "Vote Here" in a type that is visible and legible from thirty ( 30) feet indicating that such polling location is located nearby.

715.1 Polling locations located more than fifty (50) feet inside a building shall be marked with signs noting the location at exterior entrances, and within fifteen (15) feet of the polling location inside.

715.2 Signs created by the Supervisor shall include the dates of the election or runoff, the times polling locations will be open and any and all requirements for voting.

715.3 The Supervisor of Elections shall post a list of polling locations on the Student Government website and through at least two additional forms of notification. A link to the official UF campus map shall be included along with the list of polling locations on the Student Government website.

715.4 The Supervisor of Elections shall draft a social media post to inform every elector, including those enrolled at satellite campuses, their right to vote in Student Government elections. The Supervisor of Elections shall draft at least two such posts, with at least one social media post sent to the Action SG Chairperson sent when the dates, times, and polling locations of the upcoming election are finalized and at least one post sent when polls open on the first day of the election. Each such post must be sent to the Action SG Chairperson between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Additionally, the posts shall include the following:
 (a) The candidates students may vote for as they appear on the ballot, additionally
     including any declared write-in candidate(s).
 (b) The dates, times, and polling locations of the upcoming election.

715.5 Every official Student Government social media account shall post to its social media platform the content provided by the Supervisor of Elections to the Action SG Chairperson as mandated by Sections 714.31 and 715.4, S.B.S. within one (1) business day. These social media posts may exclude content only to satisfy social media platform limitations.

716.0 The Supervisor of Elections shall be responsible for instructing poll workers in the proper use and operation of voting machines and shall prepare guidelines and regulations, inaccordance with the laws of the State of Florida, to be followed in the preparation, sealing, opening, and reading of such machines.

716.1 The Supervisor of Elections shall provide the poll workers with written instructions on how to assist students with disabilities. The instructions shall read as follows: "Students with sight, vision or physical impairments may request a companion or poll worker to read and mark their ballot. You are to help any student that requests this service."

716.2 All polling locations for Student Government elections shall remain open from 8:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. on each designated day of the election.

716.21 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that all students who are in line at 8:30 P.M. are allowed to vote.

714.4 If the set of returns indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one quarter (1/4) of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-quarter (1/4) of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, the Supervisor of Elections shall order a recount of the ballots cast for that office to be conducted within twenty-hour (24) hours of the announcement of the results.

714.5 If the set of returns indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by between one-quarter (1/4) and one-half (1/2) of a percent of the votes cast for such office or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by between one-quarter (1/4) and one-half (1/2) of a percent of the votes cast on such measure, the political party of such candidate or the candidate may request in writing that the Supervisor of Elections and the Elections Commission conduct a recount of the ballots cast for that office, provided that such request is made by noon on the second day after the election.

714.6 The Supervisor of Elections shall announce at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, the election results no earlier than one (1) hour after the closing of the polls. If the J. Wayne Reitz Union is unavailable, the Elections Commission shall by two-thirds vote select a new location no later than one calendar week prior to the closing of the polls on the last day of the election in question.

717.1 If any statutorily mandated meeting, event, deadline, or like occurrences, not including general or Run-off elections, occurs on a religious holiday or school holiday, the Supervisor of Elections shall select another date within a reasonable time period, before the mandated date as a replacement. Any replacement date set by the Supervisor of Elections must be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Elections Commission.

718.1 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure all ballots are stored until all complaints are resolved and the Student Senate validates the election.