A bill to be entitled
An act relating to elections; providing a short title;
creating s. 97.029, F.S.; declaring the policy of this
state; requiring the Attorney General or attorney of a
political subdivision to petition the Florida Supreme
Court for review of any change in voting
qualifications, prerequisites, standards, practices,
or procedures; requiring the court to enter a judgment
within a specified timeframe; prohibiting the state or
its political subdivisions from enforcing a change in
voting before a judgment is entered; providing that
finding of a specific intent to discriminate is not
required to invalidate a change; providing for
judicial relief; providing for construction; providing
an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Florida Voting
Rights Act.”

Section 2. Section 97.029, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

97.029 Judicial review of election procedures.—
(1) The Legislature declares that it is the policy of this
state to protect electors against discrimination based on
gender, race, age, income level, sexual orientation, language,
religion, or disability. The Legislature further declares that
any restriction on voting rights or any change in the standard,
practice, or procedure with respect to voting which would result
in denying or abridging the opportunity of a protected class to vote, elect a candidate of their choice, or influence the outcome of an election may not be imposed by this state or its political subdivisions.

(2) If this state or any of its political subdivisions enacts or seeks to administer any voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or any standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting which is different from the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure in force or effect on July 1, 2014, the Attorney General shall petition the Florida Supreme Court for a declaratory judgment within 30 days to determine if such change will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote in contravention of the rights established in subsection (1). For changes to procedures limited to a county or municipality, the attorney for the respective political subdivision shall petition the court.

(a) The court shall allow adversary interests to present their views and, within 45 days after the filing of the petition, shall enter its judgment. The change in qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure may not be enforced or administered until the court has entered a judgment finding compliance with this section.

(b) Proof of a specific intent of an official to discriminate against a protected class of electors based on the factors enumerated in subsection (1) is not required in order to invalidate a qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure.

(c) Changes to election standards subject to review by the court include, but are not limited to, redistricting plans,
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ey voting, absentee voting, provisional ballots, poll worker hiring and training, list maintenance, and voter registration.

(3) An affected party, including an organization on behalf of such party, may bring an action to enforce the provisions of this section.

(4) This section does not supersede or impair any federal or state law providing for expanded voting rights.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.