Bill would facilitate balloting challenges

Three Florida Democrats introduce the elections measure.

By WILLIAM GIBSON

WASHINGTON -- Three U.S. House members from Florida are sponsoring a bill that would make it easier for states to use optical scanners to count votes, a goal that officials of several states say may be impossible to achieve in time for the November election.

The 2000 presidential election in Florida exposed the problem of optical scanned ballots, which are difficult to count accurately and in a timely fashion. Florida and all states require by law that ballots be counted in the county where they are cast.

The lawmakers introduced their bill in response to a chorus of demands for a new type of ballot.

"Bill needs to find a way to make optical scanned ballots easier to use," said Rep. Bob Wexler, a Democrat from Boca Raton. "We need to make sure that光学 scanned ballots can be counted accurately and quickly."