

House Bill 1304

By: Representatives Clark of the 108th and Holly of the 116th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 21-2-385 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, so as to revise provisions
3 relating to advance voting on certain Saturdays in run-off elections; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 21-2-385 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to procedure for
8 voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, is amended by revising subsection (d) as
9 follows:

10 "(d)(1) There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence:

11 (A) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election; and

12 (B) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any general primary or election but no
13 later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff

14 and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.

15 Voting shall be conducted beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on weekdays,

16 other than observed state holidays, during such period and shall be conducted on the

17 second and third Saturdays during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. and, if the
18 registrar or absentee ballot clerk so chooses, the second Sunday, the third Sunday, or both
19 the second and third Sundays prior to a primary, ~~or election, or runoff~~ during hours
20 determined by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk, but no longer than 7:00 A.M. through
21 7:00 P.M.; ~~provided, however,~~ In the event that, if such second Saturday is a public and
22 legal holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1, if such second Saturday follows a public
23 and legal holiday occurring on the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such
24 second Saturday, or if such second Saturday immediately precedes a public and legal
25 holiday occurring on the following Sunday or Monday, such advance voting shall not be
26 held on such second Saturday but shall be held on the third Saturday prior to such
27 primary, ~~or election, or runoff~~ beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M.; ~~provided,~~
28 however, that for a runoff from a primary or election, advance voting shall be held on
29 such second Saturday if such primary or election cannot be certified in time for advance
30 voting to be held on such third Saturday. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph,
31 the registrars may extend the hours for voting to permit advance voting from 7:00 A.M.
32 until 7:00 P.M. and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant to Code
33 Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their option;
34 provided, however, that voting shall occur only on the days specified in this paragraph
35 and counties and municipalities shall not be authorized to conduct advance voting on any
36 other days.

37 (2) The registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, shall provide reasonable notice
38 to the electors of their jurisdiction of the availability of advance voting as well as the
39 times, dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted. In addition, the
40 registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall notify the Secretary of State in the manner
41 prescribed by the Secretary of State of the times, dates, and locations at which advance
42 voting will be conducted.

43 (3) The board of registrars shall publish the dates, times, and locations of the availability
44 of advance voting in its jurisdiction on the homepage of the county's publicly accessible
45 website associated with elections or registrations, or if the county does not have such a
46 website, in a newspaper of general circulation, and by posting in a prominent location in
47 the county, no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for
48 a general primary, special primary, general election, or special election and no later than
49 seven days prior to the beginning of the advance voting period for any run-off election.
50 Any new advance voting locations added after that deadline shall be published in the
51 same manner as soon as possible. The board of registrars shall not remove any advance
52 voting location after the notice of such location is published, except in the case of an
53 emergency or unavoidable event that renders a location unavailable for use. Any changes
54 that are made due to an emergency or unavoidable event after a notice of a location has
55 been published shall be published as soon as possible in the same manner set forth in this
56 paragraph."

57 **SECTION 2.**

58 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.