

House Bill 250

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 36th, Carson of the 46th, Parsons of the 44th, and Setzler of the 35th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to absentee voting, so as to limit changes to advanced voting locations in the period
3 prior to an election; to provide notice requirements for changes of advanced voting locations;
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 absentee voting, is amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385, relating
9 to procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, as 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;

12 (B) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general primary;

13 (C) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general election in

14 which there are candidates for a federal office on the ballot in the runoff; and

(D) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any other general election in which there are only state or county candidates on the ballot in the runoff but no later than the second Monday immediately prior to such runoff and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff. Voting shall be conducted during normal business hours on weekdays during such period and shall be conducted on the second Saturday prior to a primary or election during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.; provided, however, that in primaries and elections in which there are no federal or state candidates on the ballot, no Saturday voting hours shall be required; and provided, further, that, if such second Saturday is a public and legal holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1, if such second Saturday follows a public and legal holiday occurring on the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such second Saturday, or if such second Saturday immediately precedes a public and legal holiday occurring on the following Sunday or Monday, such advance voting shall not be held on such second Saturday but shall be held on the third Saturday prior to such primary or election. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, counties and municipalities may extend the hours for voting beyond regular business hours and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their option.

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

(3)(A) An advance voting location shall not be changed during the period of advanced voting for a primary, election, or runoff, or during the 60 day period prior to the beginning of advanced voting in any general primary or general election or runoff from

42 such primary or election, nor shall an advance voting location be changed in the 30 day
43 period prior to the beginning of advanced voting in any special primary or special
44 election or runoff from such special primary or special election.

45 (B) Subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not apply when, in the discretion of the
46 registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, an emergency or event occurs during
47 such time period which renders the advanced voting location unavailable for use at such
48 general primary, general election, special primary, special election, or runoff.

49 (C) Except in case of an emergency or unavoidable event occurring within ten days
50 prior to the beginning of advanced voting or during the period of advanced voting in
51 a primary or election, which emergency or event renders any advanced voting location
52 unavailable for use at such primary or election, the registrars or absentee ballot clerk,
53 as appropriate, of a county or the governing authority of a municipality shall not change
54 any advanced voting location until notice of the proposed change shall have been
55 published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the legal organ for the county or
56 municipality in which the advanced voting location is located. Additionally, on the first
57 advanced voting period following such change, a notice of such change shall be posted
58 on the previous advanced voting location and at three other places in the immediate
59 vicinity thereof. The occupant or owner of the advanced voting location, or his or her
60 agent, shall be notified in writing of such change at the time notice is published in the
61 legal organ."

62 **SECTION 2.**

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