

House Bill 512

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11th, Williams of the 145th, Barton of the 5th, Ridley of the 6th, and Tarvin of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to revise the times for advance voting; to provide for
3 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

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

- 10 (A) On the ~~fourth~~ third Monday immediately prior to each primary or election;
- 11 (B) On the ~~fourth~~ third Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general primary;
- 12 (C) On the ~~fourth~~ third Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general election
13 in which there are candidates for a federal office on the ballot in the runoff; and
- 14 (D) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any other general election in which there
15 are only state or county candidates on the ballot in the runoff but no later than the
16 second Monday immediately prior to such runoff

17 and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.
18 Voting shall be conducted ~~during normal business hours~~ beginning at 7:00 A.M. and
19 ending at 7:00 P.M. on weekdays during such period and shall be conducted on the
20 second Saturday and Sunday prior to a primary or election ~~during the hours of 9:00 A.M.~~
21 ~~through 4:00 P.M.~~ beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and
22 beginning at 1:00 P.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday; provided, however, that, in
23 ~~primaries and elections in which there are no federal or state candidates on the ballot, no~~
24 ~~Saturday voting hours shall be required~~ if Thanksgiving Day falls in the advance voting
25 period, no advance voting shall be held on such day; and provided, further, that, if such
26 second Saturday or Sunday is a public and legal holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1,
27 if such second Saturday or Sunday follows a public and legal holiday occurring on the
28 Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such second Saturday or Sunday, or if such
29 second Saturday or Sunday immediately precedes a public and legal holiday occurring
30 on the following ~~Sunday~~ or Monday, such advance voting shall not be held on such
31 second Saturday and Sunday but shall be held on the third Saturday and Sunday prior to
32 such primary or election. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, counties and
33 municipalities ~~may extend the hours for voting beyond regular business hours and~~ may
34 provide for additional voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the
35 needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their option; provided, however, that voting
36 shall occur only on the days specified in this paragraph, and counties and municipalities
37 shall not be authorized to conduct advance voting on any other days or at any other hours.
38 (2) The registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, shall provide reasonable notice
39 to the electors of their jurisdiction of the availability of advance voting as well as the
40 times, dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted. In addition, the
41 registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall notify the Secretary of State in the manner
42 prescribed by the Secretary of State of the times, dates, and locations at which advance
43 voting will be conducted.

44 (3) Each county shall have a minimum of one advance voting location for every 30,000
45 persons or fraction thereof in the county based upon the most recent decennial census.
46 Each such advance voting location shall be equipped with a minimum of six ballot
47 marking devices and three poll pads."

48 **SECTION 2.**

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