

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 559:

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 primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for preferential treatment during advance  
3 voting to voters accompanied by children of three years of age or under; to remove  
4 requirements for voters to require assistance in casting absentee ballots; to provide for  
5 preferential treatment during certain hours on election day to voters accompanied by children  
6 of three years of age or under; to remove requirements for voters to require assistance in  
7 voting; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and  
11 elections generally, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-385.1, relating to preferential  
12 treatment for older and disabled voters, as follows:

13 "21-2-385.1.

14 During the period of advance voting established pursuant to subsection (d) of Code  
15 Section 21-2-385, each elector who is 75 years of age or older, who is accompanied by one  
16 or more children of three years of age or under, or who is disabled ~~and requires assistance~~

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17 ~~in casting an absentee ballot in person at the registrar's office, absentee ballot clerk's office,~~  
18 ~~or other locations as provided for in Code Section 21-2-382~~ shall, upon request to a  
19 designated office employee or other individual, be authorized to vote immediately at the  
20 next available voting compartment or booth without having to wait in line if such location  
21 utilizes direct recording electronic voting systems or be authorized to go to the head of any  
22 line necessary to cast a written absentee ballot. Notice of the provisions of this Code  
23 section shall be prominently displayed in the registrar's office or absentee ballot clerk's  
24 office."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-409.1, relating to voting by  
27 electors who are 75 years of age or older or disabled electors without having to wait in line,  
28 as follows:

29 "21-2-409.1.

30 On election day between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., each elector who is 75  
31 years of age or older, who is accompanied by one or more children of three years of age  
32 or under, or who is disabled ~~and requires assistance in voting as authorized by Code~~  
33 ~~Section 21-2-409~~, shall, upon request to a poll officer, be authorized at any primary or  
34 election to vote immediately at the next available voting compartment or booth without  
35 having to wait in line. Notice of the provisions of this Code section shall be prominently  
36 displayed in the voting place."

37 **SECTION 3.**

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