

Senate Bill 442

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Harrell of the 40th, Jones II of the 22nd, Parent of the 42nd, Harbison of the 15th and others

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 that electors may choose to permanently
3 receive absentee ballots; to provide for procedures; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
8 elections generally, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-381, relating
9 to making of application for absentee ballot, determination of eligibility by ballot clerk,
10 furnishing of applications to colleges and universities, and persons entitled to make
11 application, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

12 “(5)(A) Any registered elector shall be eligible to apply to receive absentee ballots for
13 all primaries and elections in which he or she is eligible to vote. Such application shall
14 be on a form approved by the State Election Board. The absentee ballots sent to an
15 elector on the permanent absentee elector list shall be sent to the address in the elector’s

16 registration record, except as provided in paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of this Code
17 section.

18 (B) In accordance with procedures established by the State Election Board, the board
19 of registrars shall retain the application, enroll the elector on a permanent absentee
20 elector list, and process the elector's request for an absentee ballot for each succeeding
21 primary and election. The elector shall specify on the application by party designation
22 the primary ballots he or she is requesting or choose to receive a nonpartisan only
23 ballot.

24 (C) The State Election Board shall prescribe the process by which an elector on the
25 permanent absentee elector list may:

26 (i) Request that his or her absentee ballot for a single election or a primary and the
27 immediately following general election be sent to an address other than the address
28 on his or her registration record. This shall include all associated runoff primaries and
29 elections;

30 (ii) Request a primary ballot for a political party other than the one he or she
31 specified on his or her application for permanent absentee elector status for a single
32 primary election and associated runoff, if any; and

33 (iii) Change his or her political party selection for all succeeding primary elections.

34 (D) An elector shall be removed from the permanent absentee elector list if:

35 (i) The elector requests in writing to be removed from such list;

36 (ii) The elector's registration is canceled;

37 (iii) The elector's registration is placed on inactive status provided for in Code
38 Section 21-2-235; or

39 (iv) The elector moves to a different address which is not in the same county of his
40 or her previous registration."

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SECTION 2.

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