

SENATE BILL 771

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 3, relative to convenience vote centers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-301(d), is amended by deleting “2009” and substituting instead “2011 or, for a municipal election held in 2012, at a time other than with the May primary, the regular August election, the regular November election, or the presidential preference primary”.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-301, is amended by deleting subsection (e) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(e) Approval by the state coordinator of elections shall be limited to any county having a population of not less than one hundred eighty-two thousand (182,000) nor more than one hundred eighty-two thousand thirty (182,030), according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-302, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the state coordinator of elections, in collaboration with each county election commission where a municipality or municipalities have been chosen for the pilot project, shall establish a program that allows the county election commission to combine precincts or polling places within the municipality or establish convenient voting centers pursuant to § 2-3-303 for the municipal election scheduled in 2011 or, for a municipal election scheduled in 2012, at a time other than with the May primary, the regular August election, the regular November election, or the presidential preference primary.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-303, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

Taking into consideration all facts and circumstances, the county election commission, which has a municipality participating in the pilot project, shall consult with the coordinator of elections and shall determine the number of convenient voting centers to be used in the municipal election. For every twenty-five thousand (25,000) registered voters, the county election commission shall locate at least one (1) convenient voting center, but in no event shall the election commission establish less than two (2) convenient voting centers within the municipality, unless the municipality participating in the pilot project has less than five thousand (5,000) registered voters, in which case, the election commission may establish less than two (2) convenient voting centers within the municipality. In determining the location of the convenient voting centers, the county election commission may choose not to have its office operate as a convenient voting center during the municipal election, but must consider the density of the municipal population and the geographic dividers which exist within the municipality.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-3-304, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

If the county election commission combines polling places, precincts or establishes convenient voting centers within a municipality pursuant to § 2-3-303, the county election commission shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation the location of the convenient voting centers not less than thirty (30) days before the election. The county election commission shall mail to each voter whose polling place is changed a notice containing a list of the convenient voting centers located within the city. If more than one (1) registered voter is at the same address, then only one (1) notice

may be sent to that address. Furthermore, immediately after any establishment of a convenient voting center, the county election commission shall give written notification of the changes to the office of local government, comptroller of the treasury and the coordinator of elections.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.