

House Bill 177

By: Representatives Buckner of the 95th, Holmes of the 53rd, Walker of the 141st, Skipper of the 137th, Smyre of the 136th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 21-2-414 of the Official Code of Georgia, relating to restrictions on
2 campaign activities and public opinion polling within the vicinity of a polling place, so as to
3 prohibit campaign activities, public opinion polling, and petitioning within 150 feet of any
4 polling place at which absentee ballots are being cast and within 25 feet of any voter standing
5 in line to vote by absentee ballot; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 21-2-414 of the Official Code of Georgia, relating to restrictions on campaign
9 activities and public opinion polling within the vicinity of a polling place, is amended by
10 striking said Code section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section
11 21-2-414 to read as follows:

12 "21-2-414.

13 (a) No person shall solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method, nor shall any
14 person distribute any campaign literature, newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, or any
15 other written or printed matter of any kind, nor shall any person conduct any exit poll or
16 public opinion poll with voters on any primary or election day:

17 (1) Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building within which a polling place is
18 established;

19 (2) Within any polling place; or

20 (3) Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote at any polling place.

21 (b) No person shall solicit signatures for any petition on any primary or election day:

22 (1) Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any building within which a polling place is
23 established;

24 (2) Within any polling place; or

25 (3) Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote at any polling place.

1 (c) No person shall solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method, nor shall any
 2 person distribute any campaign literature, newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, or any
 3 other written or printed matter of any kind, nor shall any person conduct any exit poll or
 4 public opinion poll with voters on any day in which an absentee ballot may be cast by a
 5 voter:

6 (1) Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any public building within which absentee
 7 ballots are being cast;

8 (2) Within ~~within~~ a room in any public building in which absentee ballots are being cast
 9 on any day; or

10 (3) Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote by absentee ballot.

11 (d) No person shall solicit signatures for any petition on any day in which an absentee
 12 ballot may be cast by a voter:

13 (1) Within 150 feet of the outer edge of any public building within which absentee
 14 ballots are being cast;

15 (2) Within ~~within~~ a room in any public building in which absentee ballots are being cast
 16 on any day; or

17 (3) Within 25 feet of any voter standing in line to vote by absentee ballot.

18 (e) This Code section shall not be construed to prohibit a poll officer from distributing
 19 materials, as required by law, which are necessary for the purpose of instructing electors
 20 or from distributing materials prepared by the Secretary of State which are designed solely
 21 for the purpose of encouraging voter participation in the election being conducted.

22 (f) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

23 **SECTION 2.**

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