

Senate Bill 326

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Henson of the 41st, Harbison of the 15th, Jones of the 10th, Jackson of the 2nd 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 for election day voter registration and
3 voting; to provide for procedures and methods; 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 style="text-align:center">**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 21-2-220, relating
9 to application for registration, identification requirement, rejection for failure to provide
10 required information or for submission of false information, and aid to disabled or illiterate,
11 as follows:

12 "(a) Any person desiring to register as an elector shall apply to do so by making
13 application to a registrar or deputy registrar of such person's county of residence in person,
14 by submission of the federal post card application form as authorized under Code
15 Section 21-2-219, by making application through the Department of Driver Services as
16 provided in Code Section 21-2-221, by making application through the Department of
17 Natural Resources as provided in Code Section 21-2-221.1, by making application through
18 designated offices as provided in Code Section 21-2-222, ~~or~~ by making application by mail
19 as provided in Code Section 21-2-223; or by applying as provided in Code Section
20 21-2-224.1 in person at the polling place for the precinct in which such person's residence
21 is located on the day of the primary or election or at the office of the registrar or absentee
22 ballot clerk during the advance voting period specified under subsection (d) of Code
23 Section 21-2-385."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code
 26 Section 21-2-224, relating to registration deadlines, restrictions on voting in primaries,
 27 official list of electors, and voting procedure when portion of county changed from one
 28 county to another, as follows:

29 "(a) If Except as otherwise provided in Code Section 21-2-224.1, if any person whose
 30 name is not on the list of registered electors maintained by the Secretary of State under this
 31 article desires to vote at any general primary, general election, or presidential preference
 32 primary, such person shall make application as provided in this article by the close of
 33 business on the fifth Monday or, if such Monday is a legal holiday, by the close of business
 34 on the following business day prior to the date of such general primary, general election,
 35 or presidential preference primary.

36 (b) If Except as otherwise provided in Code Section 21-2-224.1, if any person whose name
 37 is not on the list of registered electors maintained by the Secretary of State under this
 38 article desires to vote at any special primary or special election, such person shall make
 39 application as provided in this article no later than the close of business on the fifth day
 40 after the date of the call for the special primary or special election, excluding Saturdays,
 41 Sundays, and legal holidays of this state; except that:

42 (1) If such special primary or special election is held in conjunction with a general
 43 primary, general election, or presidential preference primary, the registration deadline for
 44 such special primary or special election shall be the same as the registration deadline for
 45 the general primary, general election, or presidential preference primary in conjunction
 46 with which the special primary or special election is being conducted; or

47 (2) If such special primary or special election is not held in conjunction with a general
 48 primary, general election, or presidential preference primary but is held on one of the
 49 dates specified in Code Section 21-2-540 for the conduct of special elections to present
 50 a question to the voters or special primaries or elections to fill vacancies in elected county
 51 or municipal offices, the registration deadline for such a special primary or election shall
 52 be at the close of business on the fifth Monday prior to the date of the special primary or
 53 election or, if such Monday is a legal holiday, by the close of business on the following
 54 business day."

SECTION 3.

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"21-2-224.1.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person may register and vote in accordance with this Code section on the day of a primary or election or during the period of advance voting as specified in subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385.

(b) A person who is not registered to vote or did not register by the deadlines specified in Code Section 21-2-224 may go to the polling place for the precinct in which such person's residence is located on the day of a primary or election or to the registrar's office or the office of the absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, during the period specified under subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385 and register to vote by completing an official voter registration application as provided in subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-219 and providing to the poll officers, registrars, or absentee ballot clerk, as the case may be, one of the forms of identification as provided in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-417 or a legible copy thereof.

(c) For a person at his or her polling place, upon fully completing the voter registration application and providing the appropriate identification, the person shall be issued a provisional ballot in the same manner as persons whose names are not on the electors list for the polling place under Code Section 21-2-418. For a person at the registrar's office or the office of the absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, during the period specified under subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385, upon fully completing the voter registration application and providing the appropriate identification, the registrars shall either determine the person's qualifications immediately and, if found qualified, allow such person to vote in the same manner as other electors or, if there is insufficient time for whatever reason for the registrars to make such determination or if the person is attempting to vote at the absentee ballot clerk's office, the person shall be issued a provisional ballot in the same manner as persons whose names are not on the electors list at the polling places under Code Section 21-2-418 and shall vote such provisional ballot in the same manner as such persons at the polls.

(d) Persons in line waiting to complete voter registration applications at the time of the closing of the polls shall be permitted to complete the voter registration application, provide the appropriate identification, and vote a provisional ballot.

(e) The poll officer verifying the person's identification shall initial the person's voter registration application."

SECTION 4.

89
90 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (c) and (d) of Code
91 Section 21-2-419, relating to validation of provisional ballots and reporting to Secretary of
92 State, as follows:

93 "(c)(1) If the registrars determine after the polls close, but not later than three days
94 following the primary or election, that the person casting the provisional ballot timely
95 registered to vote and was eligible and entitled to vote in such primary or election or
96 properly applied to register to vote pursuant to Code Section 21-2-224.1 on the day of the
97 primary or election or during the advance voting period under subsection (d) of Code
98 Section 21-2-385 and met the qualifications to register to vote, the registrars shall notify
99 the election superintendent and the provisional ballot shall be counted and included in the
100 county's or municipality's certified election results.

101 (2) If the registrars determine after the polls close, but not later than three days following
102 the primary or election, that the person voting the provisional ballot timely registered and
103 was eligible and entitled to vote in the primary or election or properly applied to register
104 to vote pursuant to Code Section 21-2-224.1 on the day of the primary or election or
105 during the advance voting period under subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385 and met
106 the qualifications to register to vote, but voted in the wrong precinct or voted the wrong
107 ballot style or district combination, then the board of registrars shall notify the election
108 superintendent. The superintendent shall count such person's votes which were cast for
109 candidates in those races for which the person was entitled to vote but shall not count the
110 votes cast for candidates in those races in which such person was not entitled to vote.
111 The superintendent shall order the proper election official at the tabulating center or
112 precinct to prepare an accurate duplicate ballot containing only those votes cast by such
113 person in those races in which such person was entitled to vote for processing at the
114 tabulating center or precinct, which shall be verified in the presence of a witness. Such
115 duplicate ballot shall be clearly labeled with the word 'Duplicate,' shall bear the
116 designation of the polling place, and shall be given the same serial number as the original
117 ballot. The original ballot shall be retained.

118 (3) If the registrars determine that the person casting the provisional ballot did not timely
119 register to vote or was not eligible or entitled to vote in such primary or election or shall
120 be unable to determine within three days following such primary or election whether such
121 person timely registered to vote and was eligible and entitled to vote in such primary or
122 election, the registrars shall so notify the election superintendent and such ballot shall not
123 be counted. The election superintendent shall mark or otherwise document that such
124 ballot was not counted and shall deliver and store such ballots with all other ballots and
125 election materials as provided in Code Section 21-2-500.

126 (d)(1) The board of registrars shall notify in writing those persons whose provisional
127 ballots were not counted that their ballots were not counted because of the inability of the
128 registrars to verify that the persons timely registered to vote or other proper reason. The
129 registrars shall process the official voter registration application form completed by such
130 persons pursuant to Code Section 21-2-224.1 or 21-2-418 and shall add such persons to
131 the electors list if found qualified in order that such persons may vote in future primaries
132 and elections.

133 (2) The board of registrars shall notify in writing those electors who voted in the wrong
134 precinct and whose votes were partially counted of their correct precinct."

135 **SECTION 5.**

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