

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 194:

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 revise advance voting times and dates; to provide
3 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
7 elections generally, is amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385, relating
8 to procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, as follows:

9 "(d)(1) There shall be a period of advance voting that shall commence:

10 ~~(A) On the fourth on the third~~ Monday immediately prior to each primary, or election,
11 ~~or runoff from a primary or election;~~

12 ~~(B) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general primary;~~

13 ~~(C) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general election in~~
14 ~~which there are candidates for a federal office on the ballot in the runoff; and~~

15 ~~(D) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any other general election in which there~~
16 ~~are only state or county candidates on the ballot in the runoff~~

17 and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.

18 Voting shall be conducted during normal business hours on weekdays during such period

19 and shall be conducted on the second Saturday prior to a primary, or election, or runoff

20 during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.; ~~provided, however, that in primaries~~

21 ~~and elections in which there are no federal or state candidates on the ballot, no Saturday~~

22 ~~voting hours shall be required~~ Counties and municipalities shall choose to either conduct

23 voting on the second Sunday prior to such primary, election, or runoff between the hours

24 of 12:00 Noon through 4:00 P.M. or on the third Saturday prior to such primary, election,

25 or runoff between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., but not both. Except as

26 otherwise provided in this paragraph, counties and municipalities may extend the hours

27 for voting beyond regular business hours on weekdays and may provide for additional
28 voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the
29 jurisdiction at their option; provided, however, that advance voting hours on Saturdays
30 and Sundays shall not be extended. Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to
31 the contrary, for runoffs from primaries or elections for which there are only state or
32 county candidates on the ballot in the runoff, advance voting shall begin as soon as
33 possible and practicable following such primary or election.

34 (2) The registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, shall provide reasonable notice
35 prior to the beginning of the absentee voting period specified in Code Section 21-2-384
36 and during the absentee voting period to the electors of their jurisdiction of the
37 availability of advance voting as well as the times, dates, and locations at which advance
38 voting will be conducted. In addition, the registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall notify
39 the Secretary of State in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State of the times,
40 dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted prior to the beginning of
41 the absentee voting period specified in Code Section 21-2-384."

42 **SECTION 2.**

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