

Senate Bill 37

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Butler of the 55th, Fort of the 39th, Seay of the 34th,
Thompson of the 5th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to absentee voting, so as to change the time periods for advance voting; 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 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
7 absentee voting, is amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of Code
8 Section 21-2-385, relating to procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, as
9 follows:

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

11 ~~(A) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to each 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~~

17 at the same time as the period for absentee voting prior to each primary, election, or

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

19 runoff. Voting shall be conducted during normal business hours on weekdays during

20 such period and shall be conducted on the second Saturday prior to a primary or

21 election during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.; provided, however, that in

22 primaries and elections in which there are no federal or state candidates on the ballot,

23 no Saturday voting hours shall be required; and provided, further, that, if such second

24 Saturday is a public and legal holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1, if such second

25 Saturday follows a public and legal holiday occurring on the Thursday or Friday

26 immediately preceding such second Saturday, or if such second Saturday immediately

27 precedes a public and legal holiday occurring on the following Sunday or Monday, such

28 advance voting shall not be held on such second Saturday but shall be held on the third
29 Saturday prior to such primary, election, or runoff. Except as otherwise provided in this
30 paragraph, counties and municipalities may extend the hours for voting beyond regular
31 business hours and may provide for additional voting locations pursuant to Code
32 Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the electors of the jurisdiction at their option."

33 **SECTION 2.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.