

House Bill 270

By: Representatives Fleming of the 121st, Jones of the 47th, DeLoach of the 167th, Williams of the 145th, Powell of the 32nd, 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 elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for the time periods for the mailing and
3 issuance of absentee ballots; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date;
4 to repeal 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 elections and
8 primaries generally, is amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code
9 Section 21-2-384, relating to preparation and delivery of supplies, mailing of ballots, oath
10 of absentee electors and persons assisting absentee electors, master list of ballots sent,
11 challenges, and electronic transmission of ballots, as follows:

12 "(2) The board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue official absentee
13 ballots to all eligible applicants not more than 49 days but not less than 45 days prior to
14 any presidential preference primary, general primary other than a municipal general
15 primary, general election other than a municipal general election, or special primary or
16 special election in which there is a candidate for a federal office on the ballot; 22 days

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17 prior to any municipal general primary or municipal general election; and as soon as
18 possible prior to any runoff. In the case of all other special primaries or special elections,
19 the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue official absentee ballots
20 to all eligible applicants within three days after the receipt of such ballots and supplies,
21 but no earlier than 22 days prior to the election; provided, however, that should any
22 elector of the jurisdiction be permitted to vote by absentee ballot beginning 49 days prior
23 to a primary or election, all eligible applicants of such jurisdiction shall be entitled to vote
24 by absentee ballot beginning 49 days prior to such primary or election. As additional
25 applicants are determined to be eligible, the board or clerk shall mail or issue official
26 absentee ballots to such additional applicants immediately upon determining their
27 eligibility; ~~provided, however, that no.~~ No absentee ballot shall be mailed or issued by
28 the registrars or absentee ballot clerk on the day prior to if there are less than ten days
29 remaining before a primary or election and provided, further, that no absentee ballot shall
30 be issued on the day prior to a primary or election. The board of registrars shall, within
31 the same time periods specified in this subsection, electronically transmit official
32 absentee ballots to all electors who have requested to receive their official absentee ballot
33 electronically and are entitled to vote such absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed
34 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff, et seq., as
35 amended."

36 **SECTION 2.**

37 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
38 without such approval.

39 **SECTION 3.**

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