

The House Special Committee on Election Integrity offers the following substitute to HB 270:

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 receipt of  
3 absentee ballot applications and mailing and issuance of absentee ballots; to provide for  
4 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and  
9 primaries generally, is amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code  
10 Section 21-2-384, relating to preparation and delivery of supplies, mailing of ballots, oath  
11 of absentee electors and persons assisting absentee electors, master list of ballots sent,  
12 challenges, and electronic transmission of ballots, as follows:

13 "(2) The board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue official absentee  
14 ballots to all eligible applicants not more than 49 days but not less than 45 days prior to  
15 any presidential preference primary, general primary other than a municipal general  
16 primary, general election other than a municipal general election, or special primary or

H. B. 270 (SUB)

17 special election in which there is a candidate for a federal office on the ballot; 22 days  
18 prior to any municipal general primary or municipal general election; and as soon as  
19 possible prior to any runoff. In the case of all other special primaries or special elections,  
20 the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall mail or issue official absentee ballots  
21 to all eligible applicants within three days after the receipt of such ballots and supplies,  
22 but no earlier than 22 days prior to the election; provided, however, that should any  
23 elector of the jurisdiction be permitted to vote by absentee ballot beginning 49 days prior  
24 to a primary or election, all eligible applicants of such jurisdiction shall be entitled to vote  
25 by absentee ballot beginning 49 days prior to such primary or election. As additional  
26 applicants are determined to be eligible, the board or clerk shall mail or issue official  
27 absentee ballots to such additional applicants immediately upon determining their  
28 eligibility; ~~provided, however, that no.~~ Except as provided in Code Section 21-2-385, all  
29 absentee by mail ballot applications must be received by the board of registrars or  
30 absentee ballot clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. on the second Friday before the primary,  
31 election, or runoff. All approved absentee ballot ballots shall be mailed or issued by the  
32 registrars or absentee ballot clerk on the day prior to a primary or election and within  
33 three business days after receipt by the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk;  
34 ~~provided, further, that no absentee ballot shall be issued on the day prior to a primary or~~  
35 ~~election~~ nothing in this paragraph shall prevent an elector from voting at an advance  
36 voting location pursuant to subsection (d) of this Code section. No absentee by mail  
37 ballot shall be issued or mailed after the close of business on the Wednesday before the  
38 primary, election, or runoff. The board of registrars shall, within the same time periods  
39 specified in this subsection, electronically transmit official absentee ballots to all electors  
40 who have requested to receive their official absentee ballot electronically and are entitled  
41 to vote such absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
42 Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff, et seq., as amended."

43 **SECTION 2.**

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

46 **SECTION 3.**

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