

House Bill 891 (AM)

By: Representatives Fleming of the 121st, Brockway of the 102nd, Welch of the 110th, Williamson of the 115th, Hamilton of the 24th, 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 change the period for advance voting prior to a
3 municipal primary or election; 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 (1) of subsection (d) of Code
9 Section 21-2-385, relating to procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, as
10 follows:

11 "(d)(1)(A) There shall be a period of advance voting for county, state, and federal
12 elections that shall commence on the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary
13 or election and as soon as possible prior to a runoff and shall end on the Friday
14 immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff. Voting shall be conducted
15 during normal business hours on weekdays during such period and shall be conducted
16 on the second Saturday prior to a primary or election during the hours of 9:00 A.M.
17 through 4:00 P.M.; provided, however, that in primaries and elections in which there
18 are no federal or state candidates on the ballot, no Saturday voting hours shall be
19 required.

20 (B) (i) There shall be a period of advance voting for municipal elections that shall
21 commence on the second Saturday immediately prior to each primary or election and
22 as soon as possible prior to a runoff, but not earlier than the second Saturday
23 immediately prior to such runoff, and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each
24 primary, election, or runoff. Voting shall be conducted during normal business hours
25 on weekdays during such period and shall be conducted on the second Saturday prior
26 to a primary or election during the hours of 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.; provided,

27 however, that, if a municipal election is held in conjunction with a county, state, or
28 federal primary or election, the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall
29 apply.

30 (ii) The General Assembly may provide by local Act that, in municipal elections not
31 otherwise subject to the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the same
32 period of advance voting as required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be
33 provided.

34 (C) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, counties and municipalities may
35 extend the hours for voting beyond regular business hours and may provide for
36 additional voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the
37 electors of the jurisdiction at their option."

38 **SECTION 2.**

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

41 **SECTION 3.**

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