

Senate Bill 320

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th, Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th,
Seay of the 34th 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 primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that public elementary and secondary
3 schools register parents and guardians to vote when enrolling their children for school; to
4 provide for related matters; 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 primaries and
8 elections generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

9 "21-2-221.3.

10 (a) Each public elementary and secondary school in this state shall be designated as a voter
11 registration agency.

12 (b) At each public school, the following services shall be made available to parents and
13 guardians at the time of registering their child for enrollment in the public school:

14 (1) Distribution of the mail voter registration application form provided for in Code
15 Section 21-2-223 in accordance with subsection (c) of this Code section;

16 (2) Assistance to such parents or guardians in completing voter registration application
17 forms, unless the parent or guardian refuses such assistance; and

18 (3) Acceptance of completed voter registration application forms for submission to the
19 Secretary of State.

20 (c) As a part of the enrollment process for each child, each public school shall:

21 (1) Distribute to each parent or guardian of each child applying for enrollment and with
22 each reenrollment or change of address, when such application, reenrollment, or change
23 of address is made in person, the mail voter registration application form provided for in
24 Code Section 21-2-223 unless the parent or guardian declines in writing to register to
25 vote;

26 (2) Distribute a form provided by the Secretary of State to accompany the voter
27 registration application form which includes:

- 28 (A) The question 'If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like
 29 to apply to register to vote here today?':
- 30 (B) Boxes for the parent or guardian to check to indicate whether the parent or
 31 guardian is presently registered, would like to register, or declines to register to vote
 32 with the statement 'IF YOU DO NOT CHECK ANY BOX, YOU WILL BE
 33 CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THIS
 34 TIME.' in close proximity to the boxes and in prominent type;
- 35 (C) The statement 'If you would like help in filling out the voter registration application
 36 form, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may
 37 fill out the application in private.'; and
- 38 (D) The statement 'If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register
 39 or to decline to register to vote or your right to privacy in deciding whether to register
 40 or in applying to register to vote, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State
 41 at (insert address and telephone number).'; and
- 42 (3) Provide to each parent or guardian who does not decline to apply to register to vote
 43 the same degree of assistance with regard to the completion of the voter registration
 44 application form as is provided by the school with regard to the completion of its own
 45 forms, unless the parent or guardian refuses such assistance.
- 46 (d) If an applicant fails to check any box on the form required by subparagraph (c)(2)(B)
 47 of this Code section, the applicant shall be deemed to have declined to apply to register to
 48 vote.
- 49 (e) Information relating to a declination to apply to register to vote in connection with an
 50 enrollment made at a public school described in subsection (c) of this Code section shall
 51 not be used for any purpose other than voter registration and shall not be subject to public
 52 inspection.
- 53 (f) Each public school shall transmit the completed voter registration application forms to
 54 the Secretary of State at least once per week, except that, during the 15 days leading up to
 55 a registration deadline for a primary or election, such application forms shall be transmitted
 56 to the Secretary of State at the conclusion of each business day. The Secretary of State
 57 shall forward the applications to the appropriate county board of registrars to determine the
 58 eligibility of the applicant and, if found eligible, to add the applicant's name to the list of
 59 electors and to place the applicant in the correct precinct and voting districts.
- 60 (g) Each public school shall maintain such statistical records on the number of
 61 registrations and declinations as requested by the Secretary of State.
- 62 (h) Persons providing the services described in subsection (c) of this Code section shall
 63 not:
- 64 (1) Seek to influence a parent or guardian's political preference;

- 65 (2) Display any such political preference or political party or body allegiance;
66 (3) Make any statement to a parent or guardian or take any action the purpose or effect
67 of which is to discourage the parent or guardian from applying to register to vote; or
68 (4) Make any statement to a parent or guardian or take any action the purpose or effect
69 of which is to lead the parent or guardian to believe that a decision to apply to register or
70 not to apply to register to vote has any bearing on the enrollment in and attendance at
71 such public school.
- 72 (i) The Secretary of State shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to
73 provide for the transmission of voter registration application forms and signatures
74 electronically from public schools. Such electronically transmitted signatures shall be valid
75 as signatures on the voter registration application forms, shall be treated in all respects as
76 manually written original signatures, and shall be recognized as such in any matter
77 concerning the voter registration application forms."

78 **SECTION 2.**

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