

Senate Bill 147

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th, Harrell of the 40th, Jackson of the 41st, Davenport of the 44th 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 that counties and municipalities, at their
3 option, may conduct advance voting on the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the
4 day of a primary, election, or runoff; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other 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 subsection (d) of Code Section 21-2-385,
10 relating to procedure for voting by absentee ballot and advance voting, as follows:

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

12 (A) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to each primary or election;

13 (B) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general primary;

14 (C) On the fourth Monday immediately prior to a runoff from a general election in
15 which there are candidates for a federal office on the ballot in the runoff; and

16 (D) As soon as possible prior to a runoff from any other general election in which there
17 are only state or county candidates on the ballot in the runoff but no later than the
18 second Monday immediately prior to such runoff
19 and shall end on the Friday immediately prior to each primary, election, or runoff.
20 Voting shall be conducted during normal business hours on weekdays during such period
21 and shall be conducted on the second Saturday prior to a primary or election during the
22 hours of 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M.; provided, however, that in primaries and elections
23 in which there are no federal or state candidates on the ballot, no Saturday voting hours
24 shall be required; and provided, further, that, if such second Saturday is a public and legal
25 holiday pursuant to Code Section 1-4-1, if such second Saturday follows a public and
26 legal holiday occurring on the Thursday or Friday immediately preceding such second
27 Saturday, or if such second Saturday immediately precedes a public and legal holiday
28 occurring on the following Sunday or Monday, such advance voting shall not be held on
29 such second Saturday but shall be held on the third Saturday prior to such primary or
30 election. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, counties and municipalities
31 may extend the hours for voting beyond regular business hours and may provide for
32 additional voting locations pursuant to Code Section 21-2-382 to suit the needs of the
33 electors of the jurisdiction at their option. Notwithstanding any provision of this
34 subsection to the contrary, counties and municipalities, at their option, may also conduct
35 advance voting on the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to a primary, election, or
36 runoff.

37 (2) The registrars or absentee ballot clerk, as appropriate, shall provide reasonable notice
38 to the electors of their jurisdiction of the availability of advance voting as well as the
39 times, dates, and locations at which advance voting will be conducted. In addition, the
40 registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall notify the Secretary of State in the manner
41 prescribed by the Secretary of State of the times, dates, and locations at which advance
42 voting will be conducted."

43

SECTION 2.

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