

Senate Bill 444

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Harrell of the 40th, Jones II of the 22nd, Parent of the 42nd, Harbison of the 15th 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 remove the limitation on the number of absentee
3 ballot drop boxes which may be utilized in a primary or election; to provide for related
4 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 revising paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of Code
9 Section 21-2-382, relating to additional buildings as additional registrar's office or place of
10 registration for receiving absentee ballots and for advance voting and drop boxes, as follows:

11 "(c)(1) A board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk shall establish at least one drop box
12 as a means for absentee by mail electors to deliver their ballots to the board of registrars
13 or absentee ballot clerk. A board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk may establish
14 additional drop boxes, ~~subject to the limitations of this Code section, but may only~~
15 ~~establish additional drop boxes totaling the lesser of either one drop box for~~
16 ~~every 100,000 active registered voters in the county or the number of advance voting~~

17 ~~locations in the county.~~ Any additional drop boxes shall be evenly geographically
18 distributed by population in the county. Drop boxes established pursuant to this Code
19 section shall be established at the office of the board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk
20 or inside locations at which advance voting, as set forth in subsection (d) of Code
21 Section 21-2-385, is conducted in the applicable primary, election, or runoff and may be
22 open during the hours of advance voting at that location. Such drop boxes shall be closed
23 when advance voting is not being conducted at that location. All drop boxes shall be
24 closed when the advance voting period ends, as set forth in subsection (d) of Code
25 Section 21-2-385. The drop box location shall have adequate lighting and be under
26 constant surveillance by an election official or his or her designee, law enforcement
27 official, or licensed security guard. During an emergency declared by the Governor
28 pursuant to Code Section 38-3-51, drop boxes may be located outside the office of the
29 board of registrars or absentee ballot clerk or outside of locations at which advance voting
30 is taking place, subject to the other limitations of this Code section."

31

SECTION 2.

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