

House Bill 324

By: Representatives Martinez of the 111th, Hilton of the 48th, Rice of the 139th, Donatucci of the 105th, Chastain of the 7th, 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 for preferential treatment during advance
3 voting and during certain hours on election day to voters who are blind, deaf, an amputee,
4 pregnant, accompanied by children of five years of age or younger, or accompanied by
5 children with special needs regardless of age; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
10 elections generally, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-385.1, relating to preferential
11 treatment for older and disabled voters, as follows:

12 "21-2-385.1.

13 During the period of advance voting established pursuant to subsection (d) of Code
14 Section 21-2-385, each elector who is 75 years of age or older, blind, deaf, an amputee,
15 pregnant, accompanied by one or more children of five years of age or younger,
16 accompanied by one or more children with special needs regardless of the age of such

17 child, or who is disabled and requires assistance in casting an absentee ballot in person at
 18 the registrar's office, absentee ballot clerk's office, or other locations as provided for in
 19 Code Section 21-2-382, shall, upon request to a designated office employee or other
 20 individual, be authorized to vote immediately at the next available voting compartment or
 21 booth without having to wait in line if such location utilizes direct recording electronic
 22 voting systems or be authorized to go to the head of any line necessary to cast a written
 23 absentee ballot. Notice of the provisions of this Code section shall be prominently
 24 displayed in the registrar's office or absentee ballot clerk's office."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-2-409.1, relating to voting by
 27 electors who are 75 years of age or older or disabled electors without having to wait in line,
 28 as follows:

29 "21-2-409.1.

30 On election day between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., each elector who is
 31 75 years of age or older, blind, deaf, an amputee, pregnant, accompanied by one or more
 32 children of five years of age or younger, accompanied by one or more children with special
 33 needs regardless of the age of such child, or who is disabled and requires assistance in
 34 voting as authorized by Code Section 21-2-409, shall, upon request to a poll officer, be
 35 authorized at any primary or election to vote immediately at the next available voting
 36 compartment or booth without having to wait in line. Notice of the provisions of this Code
 37 section shall be prominently displayed in the voting place."

38 **SECTION 3.**

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