

House Bill 826

By: Representatives Martinez of the 111<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, and New of the 64<sup>th</sup>

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 to voters who are 65 years of age or older, pregnant, accompanied by children of five  
4 years of age or under, or accompanied by children with special needs regardless of age; to  
5 provide for preferential treatment during certain hours on election day to voters who are  
6 pregnant, accompanied by children of five years of age or under, or accompanied by children  
7 with special needs regardless of age; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

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

13 "21-2-385.1.

14 During the period of advance voting established pursuant to subsection (d) of Code  
15 Section 21-2-385, each elector who is ~~75~~ 65 years of age or older, who is pregnant, who  
16 is accompanied by one or more children of five years of age or under, who is accompanied

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

26 **SECTION 2.**

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

30 "21-2-409.1.

31 On election day between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., each elector who is ~~75~~ 65  
32 years of age or older, who is pregnant, who is accompanied by one or more children of five  
33 years of age or under, who is accompanied by one or more children with special needs  
34 regardless of the age of such child, or who is disabled and requires assistance in voting as  
35 authorized by Code Section 21-2-409, shall, upon request to a poll officer, be authorized  
36 at any primary or election to vote immediately at the next available voting compartment  
37 or booth without having to wait in line. Notice of the provisions of this Code section shall  
38 be prominently displayed in the voting place."

39 **SECTION 3.**

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